

BETTER TOGETHER

***Ecclesiastes 4:9-12** (NLT) Two are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10: If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11: Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12: A person standing alone can be attached and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple braided cord is not easily broken.*

***Vs 9:** Two are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.*

We are not designed to live life alone. It is by Christ's example that we are meant to live life in close proximity to each other.

***John 18:37** (NLT) "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."*

Because of the love that Jesus had for us He came close to us. We are called to emulate this same kind of love.

***John 15:12-13** (NLT) This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13: There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.*

Our intention and our purpose is to make others better by our love for them.

An important part of being the 2 that makes the 1 better, is humility.

Philippians 2:2-4 (NLT) “Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. 3: Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4: Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.”

The key to showing people you care about them is genuinely taking an interest in them.

We have a responsibility of bringing out the best in those around us...and when we realise that we are better together, we will be able to accomplish more than we could have ever accomplished alone.

Vs 10: *If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.*

God often meets our needs through other people. We need the strength of another to be able to get us back up on our feet.

Proverbs 18:24 (NLT) *There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.*

Superficial Friends vs True Friends

Superficial friends exist because of what **YOU** have to offer them.

But true friends are there because of what **THEY** have to offer.

If we see ourselves with the love, the grace and the forgiveness of Christ...we are also called to see our neighbours in the same way.

Matthew 22:39 (NLT) A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Vs 11: Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?

It was not uncommon in Solomon's time for friends to keep each other warm in the cold winter nights.

You can't sleep peacefully with someone you do not trust. **Have you surrounded yourself with people you can trust?**

Proverbs 12:26 (NLT) The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Have you made a decision to become the kind of person other people can trust?

When we are together, we have the ability to bring out the potential in each other.

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

We are better together because when we are in a place of trust, respect and security, we can bring out the best in each other.

When we are together, we help each other fulfill our God given potential.

Vs 12a: A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.

In life, so many things can come our way. In the ups and the downs, we need people surrounding us with support and prayer.

James 5:16 (NLT) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

Success and victory in life often comes from the accretion of the wisdom, love and support of those around you.

We need people who have our back.

It is better together because we find victory through the trials of life... through the strength that only comes from being together.

Vs 12b: Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Solomon is talking about how there is strength in numbers, and that there is a strength that is achieved together that would have been impossible to achieve alone.

We are better together because:

- We help each other succeed.
- We help each other in troubled times.
- We give each other peace and security.
- We bring out the potential in each other.
- We help each other conquer whatever life throws at us.

Life is better connected, because when we are connected, life just gets better.