

BETTER TOGETHER

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (nlt) Two people 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 attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

1: Victory is found when we are together in close proximity.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (nlt) Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.

We have a tendency to isolate and distance ourselves from others.

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.”

Christ's love compelled him to come himself.

The only way we can truly reflect and practice the love of Christ, **is in community.**

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.

Jesus came close, so we are also called to come close to one another.

In community, humility is one of the most important postures.

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. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too."

When we desire to genuinely help and support others, God ultimately empowers us to accomplish far more than we could of ever of hoped to have accomplished alone.

2. We can be a strength for each other.

Ecclesiastes 4:10 (nlt) If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.

There are times when we fall, and the strength that we have alone enough get us back up. Often, God uses others to be the strength that we need to get back up.

We need to have the right people surrounding and supporting us.

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

A true friend is not someone who is there for what **YOU** can offer them, but is there because of what **THEY** can offer you.

We need to prioritize:

1. Having the right people surrounding and supporting us.
2. Being the kind of person that others want to be surrounded and supported by.

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

Ephesians 4:32 (nlt) Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

So, when we look at others, we should look at them with the same love and forgiveness that Christ has for us.

3. Surround yourself with the trustworthy

Ecclesiastes 4:11 (nlt) Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?

It wasn't uncommon in Solomon's time for friends to keep each other warm in the cold winter nights with the clothes they wore during the day as often this was their only source of covering.

This takes a certain level of trust!

Are you surrounding 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.

Are you someone who other people know they can trust?

We need each other to be able to succeed in the life God has given us to live. We are not designed to live life in isolation.

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

4. You need people who have your back.

Ecclesiastes 4:12a (nlt) A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer.

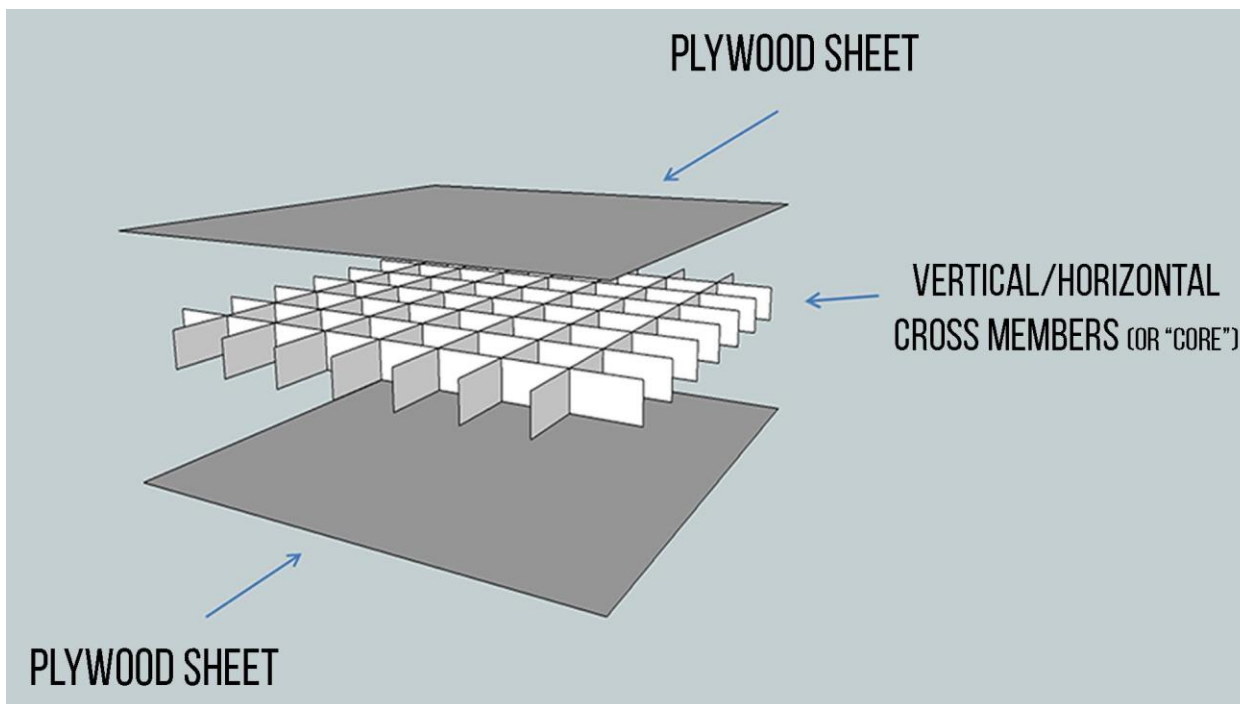
James 5:16 (nlt) Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

If we weren't meant to do life alone, we aren't meant to go through hardships and difficulties alone either.

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

The healthiest relationships are when both people have chosen to be someone who adds value and who desires to grow in order to serve the other better.

Ecclesiastes 4:12b (nlt) Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.



When the correct components come together, a rigidity ***much greater*** than that possessed by the individual parts is achieved.

Living life to the fullest is when we realize that we aren't meant or designed to live life alone.

Hebrews 10:25 (nlt) and let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.