

Cooperation **1Corinthians 12:14-27**

We Need Support

One person alone is a very helpless being - becomes strong by relating to others or outside forces
Mankind combines his energies to capitalize on the natural resources. Without cooperation we would not enjoy the luxuries that we now enjoy
It as been said that cooperation is a test of intelligence.
Someone said to the manager of a mental institution "Are you not afraid the inmates will combine against you?" He replied, "no, if they had sense enough to cooperate, they would not be here."

Cooperation Is Essential To Christianity

Paul teaches cooperation using the figure of the human body - **1Corinthians 12:14-27**

Body not one member but many; All of same importance - **1Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:16**

Solomon teaches wisdom of cooperation with locust - **Proverbs 30:27**

Damage of one insignificant; many destroy - **Exodus 10:1-20**

Story of old man who gave a bundle of sticks to sons and said break them. Each one failed, when he untied the bundle the sons broke the sticks easily - moral of the story, you must stick together - **1 Corinthians 3:9**

Paul planted Apollos watered-Cooperation God gave increase

Why Some Fail To Cooperate

A lack of oneness - **Philippians 3:16; Philippians 1:27**

Members of physical body directed by one spirit

Likewise spiritual body directed by one spirit

Two contrasted dispositions

Self depreciation

Underestimate value; feel inferior - **1Corinthians 12:15-16**

Ability differs but each held responsible - **Matthew 25:14-30**

Depreciation of other Christians - **1Corinthians 12:21; Philippians 2:3-8**

A self-willed spirit

Some want to have their own way or else

We must be tolerant

We must be willing to follow leadership

When asked to do something, then give it the best that you have

There Is Work For All

Even though this congregation is small, there is work for each one to do, and if the work that needs to be done is gets done then each member must do their part

We must make up our minds to get involved, volunteer our assistance, be willing to work wherever it is thought by others that we can best serve the congregation.

Make a commitment to live before others that they can see Christ living in you and that you are going to attend all of the services of the Lord's church that you possibly can and if that is all that you CAN do then you are working together with others to the best of your ability.

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