



Be Knit Together

In his letter to the church in Colossae, Paul describes a beautiful picture of what God intends for his church. In the second chapter, he provides an illustration of the connectedness we are to have and the purpose for this connectedness.

Colossians 2:1-3 (ESV) *For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

I love this imagery of being knit together in love. Pause and think about what it means for something to be knit together (a quilt, clothing, a tapestry, a rug), these items are tightly woven fabrics that create something strong, something functional, something beautiful. Individual strands of fiber cannot provide the same function stand-alone; however, when brought together, they create something wonderful.

As Christians, we are to be woven, knit together - and in the Spirit's words through Paul - knit together in love for the purpose of reaching all the riches and assurance that come by knowing Christ and where all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are sourced. So what does it really mean to be knit together in love?

I think of the OT example of David and Jonathan. In 1 Samuel 18 we are told that "the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul". If we examine this relationship, we can truly see what it meant to be "knit together in love".

Jonathan, as king Saul's son, would have been the one that man would have expected to take Saul's place on the throne when the time came. However, because of Saul's wicked ways, God planned for David to fulfill this role in time. Jonathan and David were close friends. Jonathan wanted what God desired more than his own desires and therefore wanted for David to have what God intended, for him to be the next king. This meant loving God and loving David more than himself. Jonathan would fight and behave with all his might to do all that he could to ensure that his friend, whom he was knit together with, ascended to the throne. In the end this would cost Jonathan his own life - but he was willing to fight for God's plan and for his friend David. At the same time, David also loved Jonathan and took care of his crippled son for the rest of his days.

These two were joined together in love and for the purpose of reaching the full riches of God's assurances, knowledge, and wisdom. What will we do to join together with our brothers and sisters to do the same? Both of these men were selfless in different ways to ensure the needs of the other were met. One way we can examine our connectedness, how well we are knit together, is to check our selflessness with others. As it pertains to interacting with our church family, if we stop and take pause and really consider those that we are knit with - do we listen to the needs of others, modify our desires and behaviors out of the love that we have for one another (selflessness) or are there things that we insist on, or lobby for, or have to have our way out of our own selfish desires.

Let's consider how we can better be knit together in love in all that we do then we can focus together on the things that are above (Col 3:1-2). *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."*

-Derrick Savage