



IN THIS TOGETHER

1) The _____ of the church is wrapped into your DNA.

Philippians 1:3–8 [3] I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. [6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. [7] It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. [8] For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, **whom I love and long for**, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

2) _____ is all good... until it's not.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 [9] Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. [10] For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! [11] Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? [12] And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

3) Truthfully, the _____ of being together can be difficult.

Ephesians 4:15–16 [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, **when each part is working properly...**

4) You will have to learn to _____ people through their craziness.

Philippians 4:10, 14–18 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.... [14] Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. [15] And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. [16] Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. [17] Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. [18] I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

5) Our long-term decision to stick with someone, even through their craziness, _____ the kingdom of God.

John 13:35 “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Do you prefer “online” church to “real” church? Why or why not?
2. What benefits can you see from being physically together?
3. How do you feel you were created for community?
4. Do you lean toward independence or dependence when it comes to other people?
5. What are some of the difficult things about being together?
6. How have you failed and succeeded at loving people through sin?
7. How have your decisions to stick with people eventually advance the Kingdom?