

Stronger Together

Two are Better than One

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Main Text: *Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NKJV)*

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Introduction

- Title: “**Stronger Together**”
- Theme: God designed us for **connection**, **community**, and **partnership**.
- Key verse: “*Two are better than one.*”
- In marriage, friendship, ministry — we are stronger when united.

Early marriage testimony:

- Share your personal experience of learning to work **together** with your wife.
- At the beginning, it’s exciting; over the years, it takes **intentional effort**.
- “One can put a thousand to flight, but two ten thousand.” (Deuteronomy 32:30)
- Unity multiplies strength!

I. Unity Takes Effort

Ephesians 4:1–6 (NKJV)

“I... beseech you to walk worthy of the calling... endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

- Pastor Silva mentioned last week — unity doesn’t happen by accident.
- By nature, we are selfish. In marriage and relationships, if we don’t work at unity, we **drift apart**.
- “In marriage, you’re either growing together or growing apart.”
- Unity requires **humility**, **gentleness**, **patience**, and **love**.

II. Two Are Better Than One (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12)

1. Partnership & Purpose

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor.”

- There’s greater reward when we work together — in marriage, ministry, and mission.

- You feel fulfilled when you accomplish things **together**.

Proverbs 18:1 (NKJV)

“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.”

- Isolation leads to selfishness and poor judgment.

After COVID, isolation and depression increased dramatically.

- As a church, we must **strategically build friendships and community**.

Technology

- *Positives:* Helps us stay connected across the world.
- *Negatives:* Can create **false connection** — virtual but not personal.
- Real relationships require **effort** and **presence**.

2. Encouragement

“For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls...”
(v.10)

- Everyone stumbles — we need someone to lift us up.
- God uses people to **encourage** us in our weakest moments.
- Who’s lifting you up? Who are you lifting up?

Application: Be intentional — join a small group, serve with others, check in with a friend.

3. Compassion & Closeness

“Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone?” (v.11)

- Warmth speaks of **comfort, closeness, and care**.
- In marriage: emotional, spiritual, and physical intimacy.
- In friendship: empathy, presence, shared life.

You can’t stay warm in isolation — love grows in **connection**.

4. Protection

“Though one may be overpowered, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” (v.12)

- Alone, we’re vulnerable; together, we’re strong.
- With God in the center, the **threefold cord** (you + others + God) cannot be broken.
- Unity brings **strength and stability**.

*Think of soldiers, teams, marriages — they survive through **partnership**.*

Conclusion

- God designed you to live **connected**, not isolated.

- Whether in marriage, family, or church, we must be **intentional** in staying united.
- Let's **fight for unity, encourage one another, and walk together.**
- Remember: **Stronger Together.**