

## LINKED TOGETHER

I read a very interesting article recently entitled, What Good Is A Tree? The article explained that when the roots of trees touch, there is a substance present that reduces competition. In fact, this unknown fungus helps link roots of different trees- even of dissimilar species. An entire forest may be linked together. If one tree has access to water, another to nutrients, and a third to sunlight, the trees have the means to share with one another.

Like trees in a forest, Christians need and support one another. The spiritual body of Christ, the church, is intrinsically linked together much like a forest of trees. Every member plays an important role in the well-being of the whole (**1 Cor. 12:12ff**). There is no competition among fellow Christians; rather, each member looks out for the best interest of others (**Gal. 6:1-2; Phi. 2:3-4**). Where such genuine love and concern exists, there you'll find a healthy, vibrant congregation. That's why it's so important that every member take an active part in the work and worship of the church. Everyone is needed, and when a few choose not to be involved, it can have a negative effect on the whole. Inspiration admonishes all of God's people to work together, and to do so harmoniously.

*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called Atoday,@ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin...And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (**Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25**).*

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