



Shelby Christian Church

WE OVER ME: THE POWER OF "WE" * ECCLESIASTES 4:9–12, HEBREWS 10:24–25
2/15/2026

MAIN POINT

The Power of WE.

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time when you tried to handle something on your own, only to realize it would have been far easier if you had asked for help. What keeps us from reaching out, even when we know we need support?

What risks do we face when we try to navigate life's challenges in isolation?

How would you describe the purpose of the church in light of these ideas?

From the very beginning, God designed us for community. He gave Adam a companion, surrounded Moses with a family during his escape from Egypt, and placed each of us within a local body of believers. Scripture repeatedly affirms our need for one another and reminds us that seeking support is not a sign of weakness but part of God's design. Life was never meant to be a solitary journey. Solomon emphasized the wisdom of relying on others, and Paul urged believers to stay connected to their local faith community. Together, they paint a picture of a life strengthened through shared faith, mutual encouragement, and genuine fellowship.

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ECCLESIASTES 4:9–12

What stands out to you most in this passage about companionship and support?

Why can't a football team succeed with just one great player?

The text contrasts being alone with being "two" or "three." What do you think the author is trying to emphasize?

Can you think of a time when someone "lifted you up" when you fell — emotionally, spiritually, or practically? Where have you seen teamwork strengthen faith?

How does this passage challenge the way our culture often celebrates independence and self-sufficiency?

The passage highlights the practical and emotional benefits of companionship. Two people can accomplish more than one, and they can help each other when one stumbles. Companionship brings warmth, protection, and resilience. The imagery of keeping warm together and defending one another shows how mutual support strengthens us. The final image — a "cord of three strands" — emphasizes

that relationships rooted in unity and shared purpose are not easily broken. It suggests that community, and often God's presence within that community, creates lasting strength.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 10:24–25

Why do you think Paul consistently uses the first-person plural (“we”) in this passage, and what does that reveal about the nature of Christian community?

In what ways do Paul's instructions echo the principles Solomon described in Ecclesiastes 4:9–12?

How can believers actively motivate and spur one another on when they gather together?

What are some meaningful ways Christians can offer encouragement outside of formal church meetings?

Paul emphasized the importance of believers regularly gathering for mutual encouragement. His ministry experience—both as a preacher and as someone who planted and nurtured local congregations—gave him a deep understanding of how essential community is for spiritual growth. He knew that believers thrive when they support one another and pursue maturity together.

APPLICATION

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul says that God has provided us with a way of escape so that we don't have to give in to Satan's temptations. One of these is through the involvement of other Christians in our struggles.

Why does God put so much emphasis on community?

What is the most loving thing you can do when you see a brother or sister caught in ongoing sin?

What can happen to our witness if we are not holding each other accountable or being held accountable ourselves?

PRAYER

COMMENTARY

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

The Teacher contrasts the loneliness described earlier in the chapter with the practical benefits of companionship. In the ancient world, travel was dangerous, work was physically demanding, and survival often depended on cooperation. Two people can accomplish more than one because their efforts multiply, not just add. The phrase “good return for their labor” suggests both productivity and shared joy in the work.

Mutual support in times of vulnerability - The imagery of one person falling and another lifting them up reflects both literal travel dangers and the broader human experience of stumbling. Falling symbolizes hardship, failure, or crisis. Companionship means having someone who notices, cares, and

intervenes. The Teacher calls the person who has no one to help “pitiable,” underscoring the tragedy of isolation.

Warmth and protection - “Two lie down together” is not romantic here; it’s survival language. Nights in the Judean wilderness were cold, and travelers slept close to stay warm. The point is that shared presence brings comfort and safety. The next image — defending against an attacker — reinforces the idea that life’s threats are easier to face with allies.

“A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” - This proverb-like conclusion expands the principle: If two are strong, three are even stronger. Many interpreters see this as a general wisdom statement about the strength of community. Some Christian readers also see a spiritual layer: God as the third strand in relationships, though the original text doesn’t explicitly say this. Still, the idea resonates with the broader biblical theme that God strengthens human bonds.

Hebrews 10:24-25

10:19-39 The author again exhorted his brothers to faithfulness (see 6:4-20). This exhortation contains commands, a warning, an encouraging reminder, a promise, and an expression of confidence. Due to the boldness that believers have to enter the divine presence through the perfect sacrifice of Christ, he commanded his brothers to (1) draw near to God with assurance; (2) hold on to their confession without wavering; and (3) be concerned for one another and not forsake the gathering of the church. The warning is a reminder that there is no effective sacrifice for sin apart from that provided by Christ. If Christians turn their backs on Jesus, they have no hope—only the expectation of terror.