

"WALKING TOGETHER"**Amos 3:3****"Can two walk together except they be agreed?"**

The world walking record for miles covered in 24 hours by a single individual is 121 miles. The record is held by C.A. Harriman of California. The world doubles record is held by Jim Clark and Roger Rurgess of Clinton, Iowa. To qualify for the doubles record, Clark and Rurgess had to walk side by side. They clocked 116.5 miles in 24 hours.

In the spiritual realm, it is not how fast or how far we can walk, but how Christ like we can walk. In the prophet Amos' day, his contemporaries claimed to be walking with God. But God saw their inconsistencies and said, "They do not know how to do right." (Amos 3:10). Therefore Amos' question is pertinent and should cause us to examine our walk with God and one another.

Walking together is God's desire for His children. How can we walk together? In answering Amos' question, let us consider, first, the implications of walking together; second, the importance of walking together and third, the implementation of our walk.

1) THE IMPLICATIONS OF WALKING TOGETHER.

In the N.T. the word used most often to characterize the Christian's activity is "walk". Not a short hike or a casual stroll but a lifetime of commitment to maintaining fellowship by walking with the Father and His family. That involves at least two implications:

a. Walking together implies union.

When a union is formed there is a common bond. This principle is seen in marriage. There is a uniting in the bonds of holy matrimony. So it is in the family of God, we are united to the person of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His cause is our cause.

b. Walking together implies unity.

Unity is more than union. Union is the framework that brings us together. Unity is the function within that framework. Union is getting together. Unity is getting along together.

Illust. You can tie two cats together by their tails and hang them across a fence – you will have union but by no stretch of the imagination will you have unity! Do not attempt to do this – I do not want PETA to get upset.

Eph 4:1-3 "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Here in these verses we have both union and unity. Notice: "the bond – that's "union"; "the unity of the Spirit", of course that's "unity".

Illust. King Charles V became weary of ruling over a fractious country and abdicated the throne in 1556. He retired to a monastery where he spent his time trying to make a dozen clocks run in perfect synchronization. When he had repeatedly failed he said, "How foolish I have been to think I could make my people live together in harmony when I cannot make two clocks run in unison." King Charles V nor any other human can make people stay in step with one another. Only the Holy Spirit who brought us together can keep us together as we submit to Him. One who walks with God knows God's revealed will in His Word and acts on it in such a way that he keeps in step with both God and his fellow pilgrims on the highway to heaven.

2) THE IMPORTANCE OF WALKING TOGETHER.

If you are in the family of God you cannot be a hermit. We belong to that grand company called the church. The church is not one person. The church is a gathering of many persons. And how we function together, in agreement, is important for several reasons:

a. Walking together is a declaration of our beliefs.

We come together on the basis of what we believe. Our beliefs bond us. The local church's Articles Of Faith are a compendium of what the Bible teaches about major doctrines. We must be in agreement about our beliefs.

b. Walking together is a demonstration of our brotherhood.

When we are in God's family there are certain standards of conduct that are expected by our heavenly Father, by our brothers and sisters and by those outside who are onlookers. "Birds of a feather flock together." If you are flying in Christ's flock, straighten up and fly right! Don't bring reproach upon the brotherhood of believers or the Head of the Church by unChrist-like behavior. Walking together is important to the church's testimony.

3) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR WALK TOGETHER.

The one factor that is essential in order to implement such a union and unity, such a declaration and demonstration of unity is the matter of "agreement". Again, Amos' question is, "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" In order to walk together there must be agreement on a minimum of at least four matters:

a. Agreement about our document – that is the Divine Document that we call The Bible!

Our walk is a Bible-based walk. The rules of the road are therein and woe be to those who try to "walk worthy" (Eph.4:1) without the Word!

b. Agreement about our direction.

It is quite impossible for persons going in different directions to walk together! The direction of your face and your feet will reveal the direction of your heart. If there is not agreement of heart and mind about direction, you cannot walk together with others.

There is a most unusual statement in II Kings 10:15 where Jehu said to Jehonadab, "Are you in accord with me, as I am with you?" 'I am,' Jehonadab answered. 'If so,' said Jehu, 'give me your hand.' So he did, and Jehu helped him up into the chariot. Jehu said, 'Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD.' Then he had him ride along in his chariot." They went forward together. Why? They were in agreement about the direction they were traveling.

c. Agreement about our duty.

If we can't agree on what our corporate duty is as a church, we can't walk together in the performance of that duty. What is our duty as a church? It is clearly stated in Matt.28:18-20, Acts 1:8 and Eph. 3:21 etc.

d. Agreement about our destination.

What is our destination? We are on a journey from earth to heaven, from here to eternity. We're marching to Zion!

CONCLUSION:

"Can two walk together?" We can "talk" this verse for years but unless we put the "walk" in this verse we are none the better. We must aggressively activate every principle articulated in this verse.

You can't get anywhere unless you start. It doesn't do any good to sit up and take notice if you keep on sitting. The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. So, let us agree to walk together as we journey with Jesus and one another starting now!

SUGGESTED SONGS: "Onward, Christian Soldiers"; "Move Forward"; "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"; "Spirit Of The Living God Fall Fresh On Me"; "Blest Be The Tie" etc.

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