

Ephesians: From Death to Life
We are Better Together
Ephesians 6:21-24

In 1845, a group of churches established the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the whole denomination in *one sacred effort*, for the propagation of the gospel. Taking the gospel to the nations has always been the primary purpose of the church and in that endeavor, we have always been better together.

1. We keep each other in prayer.
2. We keep each other informed.
3. We keep each other comforted.

Grace comes to those who love our Lord Jesus in sincerity. The church in Ephesus would eventually be reprimanded by Jesus (Revelation 2) for abandoning their first love. They got caught up in defending doctrine and orthodoxy and in the name of loving Jesus, forgot to love people. We need to embrace the totality of the Great Commandment, to love God and love others, so that we love God by loving others. The good news is that we get to do this as a church, and that we are better together.

Reflection

How does it encourage you that Paul asked others to pray for him as he proclaimed the gospel? What encourages and challenges you the most in Paul's final remarks? How has Ephesians given you a greater appreciation of gospel peace, gospel love, and gospel grace? How has Ephesians equipped you to serve God by serving His church? What practical change to the way you live has the Spirit been calling you as you have enjoyed the great truths of this letter?