

# Doing Life Together

As you are aware, this title, “doing life together”, is a common statement that has been said for many years throughout this company and my personal vocabulary, and I realized recently that I have never unpacked, or gave meaning, to what this term means to this group.

I started using the phrase about 5-6 years ago because it described the life I was living and as I grew in the Lord, I realized this is the life He desires for us. If you missed my last month’s devotional, or need a review, I encourage you to go relisten and read it on our website, it will give this talk more meaning and depth. Its title is “True Intimacy” and the underlying current of the message is “Doing Life Together”. In a since, this talk is part two of that talk.

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden, He had fellowship with them daily, they were “Doing Life Together” but then the enemy, Satan, in the form of a serpent deceived Eve and she disobeyed God and Adam joined her. Fellowship was broken, both with God and between Adam and Eve and then into their offspring Cane and Able and so on. Life was never the same as God intended.

But then God sent Jesus, the new Adam, and paid the price for our sin, being crucified on a cross, rising from the dead on the third day, and restoring us back to Him for those who believe. God never intended for us to do life apart from Him, that is why He sent His only son, to restore us back to daily fellowship, “Doing Life Together” with Him and fellow believers.

As I mentioned in my talk on True Intimacy some of us are afraid to let our guard down and show others our insecurities and weaknesses; we think we must put on a face of having it all together. But the truth is we all have struggles and weaknesses and we rarely, if ever, have it all together.

Here are some *scriptural* references, on how we should be “Doing Life Together”. I researched in the New Testament; this is not all of them but a good sample. I looked up the phrase one another and this is what I found. Live at peace with one another; be devoted to one another; be of the same mind towards one another; love one another; do not judge one another; build up one another; accept one another; greet one another; serve one another; challenge one another; bear one another’s burdens; be kind to one another; be subject to one another; consider one another; do not lie to one another; admonish one another; comfort one another; encourage one another; confess to one another; pray for one another; be hospitable to one another; share with one another; be humble towards one another; have fellowship with one another; and send gifts to one another.

A few years back I had a stress test on my heart and my cardiologist did not like one of the numbers from the test, so he wanted to put me in the hospital and run an angiogram of my heart. The procedure requires them to poke a hole in an artery in my groin and run a tube up towards my heart and shoot a contrast dye in my arteries around my heart for a live Xray to evaluate my heart function. This test was not my first, it was my fourth, and the first 3 times the test revealed major problems with my heart and the surrounding cardiovascular system that required life threatening procedures to repair, including a blocked carotid, and triple bypass then a quadruple bypass. Needless to say, there was great concern on the outcome of this current test. The heart function number the cardiologist did not like was my ejection fraction. It's the ability for the heart to squeeze blood into your body. My number was about 40% lower than a healthy heart. The thinking was that my heart had been weakened by the 7 bypasses and the scar tissue that goes with that. You may ask what does this have to do with doing life together? With this current procedure I invited everybody I knew to come down to the hospital and wait it out with me and my sweet wife Kristy. About 20 friends and family showed up that day and this was just the ones who could come, I invited many more. At this point in my life, I had realized it's not just the good times you share with others, like a birthday party or wedding but it's also the challenging times in your life like having a medical test that could have a grave outcome. I called everybody I had been doing life together with and ask if they could come support me and Kristy. I know some of you are thinking that you would not want to burden your friends with

such a request, and I get it, I used to think the same way, but I have realized that if you don't share these moments with the people in your life, the good, the bad and especially the hard times, we are all going to miss the special blessing that can come out of these times.

That day was crazy, there were people everywhere, the waiting areas were overwhelmed and many times the nurses ask us to quiet down for making too much noise. However, it was a very special time of waiting, with lots of laughter, prayer and many tears as we waited for them to take me back for the procedure.

They finally came and took me back for the test and the outcome was truly a miracle. The test revealed that one of my bypasses had clotted up already, but God had grown a new artery in this weakened area, my doctor called it a "God artery". He said there was no reason for concern and that my heart and cardiovascular system looked fine. Over time God has continued to strengthen my heart and my ejection fraction has improved, I am very healthy today.

That day remains as a very special memory and I tear up just thinking about it, and there is not a single person in that group that would have wanted to miss it. I am so glad I ask so many people to come. To sum it all up, "Doing life together" is sharing your whole life with others and they doing the same thing with you.