

“ALL for One and One for ALL”

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Action/Illustration: 6 volunteers - Human Pyramid, then remove middle person on bottom level. Try to rebuild pyramid without bottom, center person. It will prove impossible.

Mark 3:20-35 NIV Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. [21] When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

[22] And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

[23] So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? [24] If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. [25] If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. [26] And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. [27] In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house. [28] I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. [29] But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin."

[30] He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit." [31] Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. [32] A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

[33] "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

[34] Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! [35] Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Jesus was doing what he normally did... healing the sick and casting out demons, when the "teachers of the Law" came down to put in their two cents. They accused Jesus of being possessed by Beelzebub ("Lord of the Flies", one of Satan's names). They said they was casting out demons by the power of Satan.

Q: Does that make any sense to you? Because to me it sure sounds stupid.

Jesus replies with a practical analogy. "A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand, and a house divided against itself cannot stand." Satan has NO reason to cast demons out of someone. If he did, he would be fighting against himself. He wants people to be in bondage. He wants people to be controlled by the powers of hell. He would be a fool to fight against himself.

1. Fight Amongst Yourselves and You'll Go NOWHERE

If the devil fights against his own kingdom, he'd be a fool... what about us?

Q: Do you think that if we, Christians, fight against ourselves that we will be a strong unified Church? **Absolutely NOT**

If we are attacking brothers and sisters in the Lord, not only are we hurting ourselves, but we are helping the devil do his work!!!

Satan seeks to destroy people, and to destroy the family of God. He would like nothing more than to see Empowered Student Ministries fall apart. Remember the human pyramid... if just one part of the pyramid is missing, we're not complete. We have to be ONE to be complete. We have to work together, and favor one another above ourselves, if we want God to be glorified here.

Romans 12:10 NIV

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

2. One for All - Put Other First.

Someone once described JOY in this way. JESUS, OTHERS, YOU! The first letter of each word spells JOY... and if we truly do put things in that order, we will experience the lasting joy of the Lord in our lives.

Q: What are some practical ways we can put others ahead of ourselves??? **-giving** (we could spend the money on ourselves, but instead we can put someone else first by giving to missions, or STL, or by helping a friend in need.)

-holding the door for someone, -offering our chair to another person, -sharing what we have, -praying for them, -obeying our parents and leaders, -serving/volunteering our time

When we make it a regular habit to do all of these kinds of things, then we'll be living ONE FOR ALL.

Video Clip: It's no secret... I stole this theme from the heroic story of "The Three Musketeers" Notice how you don't here just one of them mentioned, but the three of them are all mentioned together. Let's check out this clip...

3. ALL for ONE - Do God's Will and You Are a Part of HIS Family

When we follow after God in obedience, we are like Jesus' brothers and sisters. He set the example, and made the way

first. He showed us the ultimate "One for ALL" life of a servant. Now we have the opportunity to give back to Him, with our lives.

John 15:15a NIV

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends... **-Jesus**

As we put one another first, and do the will of God, we will really be the family of God. We are already his family, but lets act like it. If someone is hurting, be a shoulder to cry on. If someone accomplishes something great, praise them for it. (Graduation's coming up!) Don't forget the pathway to JOY... JESUS, OTHERS, YOU

Prayer: God help me to put other ahead of myself. Help me to always follow your will. Lord, help US to be the family of God. We don't want to be a house divided. Help us to live - ONE FOR ALL, and ALL FOR ONE!!! Amen.