

All For One and One for All

The 3 Musketeers has been the theme of numerous movies, cartoons and television series. Many of the shows dramatize the fighting spirit and centers around the well-known phrase, “All for One and One for All,” followed by “united we stand, divided we fall.” A visiting pastor at our church recently reminded us of the 3 Musketeers slogan and used it as an analogy to the Family of God. All believers are members of the Family of God. As a family member we inherit the responsibility to care for each other, as we are all in this life together. The Christian analogy also reminds us that no one in the family is more or less important than another.

The Bible summarizes the concept in a single sentence: *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26).*

Through thick and thin, good and bad, the body of Christ sticks together and rallies around each other to act as one body. *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body... (1 Corinthians 12:12).*

One of the ways we do this is through prayer. Prayer is not a passive response to a person in need. Instead, it is a call to action. If your church or faith-based organization makes available a list of weekly prayer requests from its members, take the time to pray for those on the list. When someone asks you to pray for them they are specifically reaching out to you because they need you. Certainly, God knows their need and He wants you to take it a step further to see if you will respond to their need.



Not everyone puts their needs on the list. People are hurting but may not be comfortable with expressing their hurt publically. Be aware of the people around you who are in need of assistance and emotional support. God doesn't always speak in our ear but He places in our path opportunities where we can use our skills or caring attitude to help others. We can comfort them by reminding them that God loves them. There is joy in being part of the Family of God.

It is a privilege to be called the Children of God. We can strengthen the faith of others when they realize we are acting on God's love for them when we go out of our way to lend a helping hand. Do what you can to turn someone's suffering into a feeling of joy, knowing that people do care about them.

The bible verse at the center of the traditional, formal YMCA emblem is John 17:21, which says: *That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.* God commissions you to help others to feel part of the Family of God.

The 3 Musketeers are victorious because they work together. As members of the Family of God, we are all victorious, too. All for one and one for all. That's what family is all about.

Question: How do you seek to help people in need?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for inviting us to be part of your family – not only in heaven, but here on earth, too. Let us share your love with those around us, especially those in need of our help and support. Amen.