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Better Together

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Hello good friend,

How is your week going? I'll bet it was full of all kinds of adventures. (I know you may not have labeled them that way, but maybe if you did, you might have a different perspective about how things happened for you :) Did you learn anything new? Did you discover what you're capable of? An adventure isn't easy, it can be really hard and challenging, but the thrill is in the journey and discovery.

I discovered some things that maybe I knew at some level, but I learned even more deeply in the last couple of weeks.

The first thing I learned is that everyone has different skills, talents, and abilities. And what's awesome is that when people come together, amazing things can happen. Because everyone is so unique, we are able to have rich discussions, build creative outcomes, and accomplish much more together than if we work separately. Not only accomplish more, but the connections between people increase, and the shared experience creates a bond that allows future possibilities.

Paul talked about this in his epistle to the Corinthians.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For the body is not one member, but many." (1 Corinthians 12:4,7-12, 14)

All our different talents and gifts put together make up the 'body of Christ'.

The other thing I learned is that we need to be okay with this fact. Meaning, we need to accept the fact that everyone has different gifts, and strengths and weaknesses, and it's okay if ours isn't the same as someone else's. We should be grateful for what we have been given and not think that we are anything less because our gift is different than someone else. One is not better than another, all are needed to form the complete 'body'.

By the same token, we should not look down on others if they aren't able to do the things that you can do. They have different gifts. They are on a different path than you.

We need to give ourselves and others grace. And rejoice in our differences. All are important and precious to our Father in Heaven. And all of us are needed so that when we come together, we are more than each of us individually.

Paul makes this point perfectly with his analogy:

"If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Corinthians 12:14-27)

We are members of the body of Christ! We are all important and valuable and needed. And like Paul said, "the members should have the same care one for another."

In other words, love yourself, and love others. Everyone matters. And make it unconditional, regardless of our gifts and abilities. Our diversity makes us better together.

I'm so glad you're a part of our Penny Creek Ward 'body'. We need you.

We're on an adventure!

With love,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- A big thanks to those who have been cleaning the building the last couple of weeks. Your service has not gone unnoticed. Brother Tacher has organized things differently and runs it like a well-oiled machine. If you'd like to help let him know.
- Come join the choir and connect your voice with others, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Walker's home: [12323 31st Ave, SE, Everett, WA 98208](#). Casual dress.
- March 18th, 6:30-8:00pm - Our ward Family History learning event. Bring your device to the church and hear from stake experts.
- March 25-26 - The Stake Young Men winter campout at Steven's Pass. Get your gear ready!
- The Single Adult Spring Conference has changed to a new date and location. It has been rescheduled for April 29th-30th. The new venue will be the Arlington Stake Center, located at [17222 43rd Ave NE, Arlington, WA 98223](#). Contact Ramona Blackmon for more info. 425-220-2371 coolestfamilyever@yahoo.com

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.