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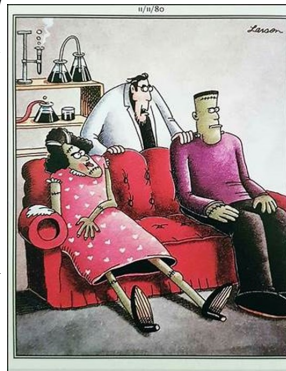
- 7054 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, CA 91306
- Mail To: P.O. Box 2711, Winnetka, CA 91396
- 818-795-5566 (cell phone)
- W. Bruce Evans, Minister: e-mail to wbe@wolfenet.com

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www.winnetkachurch.com

“MADE FOR ONE ANOTHER”

You have just got to love the cartoon seen below, with the caption below, “hey c’mon now...you two were made for each other”. There is a viable take away that can be seen as it relates to members of the body of Christ. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10) Paul was trying to impress upon the Ephesian brethren, that by design God had in essence made them one for another. Therefore, each member of the body is fitted for service. *“From whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.”* (Ephesians 4:16) This holds true even to this day.



“Hey c’mon now...you two were made for each other”

In the 12th chapter of 1Corinthians, Paul accentuates the fact that not only were christians “made for one another”, but regardless of what one may think, we need one another (see verses 14-27). This reminder in the form of an analogy with respect to the body and individual members is a precursor for the thoughts on christian love found in chapter thirteen. When one awakens to the fact of being “made for one another” it makes it somewhat easier to really grasp love and allow for the building up of the body, in love.

Love is: patient, kind, not jealous, not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek own interest, not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered and endures all things. In short love, love never fails. Let us always be mindful to know we were “made for one another” and in all that we do is motivated out of love.

To further emphasize the fact that christians are “made for one another”, Paul lays out the following as seen in Ephesians, chapter two beginning in verse nineteen and running through the remainder of the chapter. *“So then you are no longer stranger and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you are also being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”* We are brothers and sister in Christ and as such comprise the family of God. How fantastic is that!

To be sure there are times when difficulties will arise within the family and it becomes a challenge to appreciate that fact that we are “made for one another”. However, it is of paramount importance that we embrace a mind set like that of Christ and *“not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of other.”* (Philippians 2:4) That we do all things, short of compromising the truth, to develop a close relationship within the framework of the spiritual family.

The Scriptures are clear that God desires His children to draw close together. Consider what John writes, *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”* (1John 5:2) Obedience incorporates the whole counsel of God, and not just “the fundamentals”. It demands as well that we be of the same mind one to another. To in essence awaken to the fact that we have been “made for one another”, and that by God. (wbe)

THE BULWARK