

# Fitted Together

by K.P. Yohannan

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*The kingdom of God is a relational kingdom, and unity among believers is essential for seeing the kingdom come.*

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 18:31, Matthew 18:20, Mark 6:7, John 13:35, 1 Peter 2:5

**Topics:** "Unity in the Body of Christ", "Love Among Believers"

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## Description

K.P. Yohannan emphasizes the significance of unity among believers, drawing parallels from the Old Testament where Elijah repaired the altar with 12 stones representing the tribes of Israel, highlighting that all were needed for God's power to be displayed. He illustrates that just as the stones in Solomon's temple were perfectly fitted together, so too are believers called to be united as living stones in God's spiritual temple. Yohannan stresses that the kingdom of God thrives on relationships and love, as demonstrated by Jesus' teachings on gathering in His name and loving one another. He concludes that disunity stems from a lack of love, and by embracing Jesus' command to love, believers can witness the kingdom of God manifest in their lives.

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## Transcript

In 1 Kings 18:31, when the prophet Elijah repaired the broken altar, we are told he used 12 stones, "according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come . . ." This is an interesting statement, because at the time of this account the children of Israel were splintered into various groups, fragmented and backslidden in heart. Yet despite their condition, God still referred to them as one, together chosen as His children. It was on that restored altar, with the stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel, that God made His great power known by defeating the prophets of Baal.

But consider this: Would that altar have been complete with only 11 of the stones or 8 of the stones representing the tribes of Israel? No, it would not have been. It was all 12 stones that were recognized by God and all 12 through which He made His power known. We can learn a lot from this Old Testament example. Another beautiful illustration of how we are to be united as one is found in the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem. It is said that each stone used in its building was chipped at and carved away until it fit perfectly with the stones around it--so perfectly that no mortar was even needed to hold them together.

Each individual stone fit perfectly with the others, becoming one beautiful temple for the Lord. This is what the Lord desires for us today. You see, rather than dwelling in a temple made with human hands as in the days of old, God has now chosen instead to dwell within us, His temple made with living stones--you and I

(see 1 Peter 2:5). Like the stones used to build the temple, God desires His living stones to fit together perfectly by the unity of His Spirit and the bond of love.

The kingdom of God is a relational kingdom. Think about it; Jesus didn't ask us to only pray alone. He said, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20, emphasis mine). Neither did He send out the disciples individually but rather two by two (see Mark 6). His purpose in doing things this way was so that they would be able to minister to each other and support one another as they reached out to the lost around them, and so that the world, by observing the disciples' love for one another, would know the love of God.

During Jesus' last few moments before going to the cross, He left His disciples not with a series of steps on how to reach the lost. He did not sit them down with notebooks and pens or have them memorize certain methods, techniques or anything else. To prepare them for the enormous task ahead, He simply left this powerful statement: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV, emphasis mine). What is disunity except the lack of love?

When we recognize the importance that Jesus placed upon loving one another above all else, and we begin to walk in obedience to His command, nothing will be able to hinder us from seeing the kingdom of God come in our generation!

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