

**Subject: Competition Versus Cooperation**

**Scripture Reading: Romans 12: 3 - 21**

**Memory Verses: Philippians 2: 2 & 3**



**Objective:** To remind us that we are one body in Christ.

**Note:** Competition is the law of the jungle but corporation is the law of civilization (*Peter Kropotkin*). We have the power to intentionally decide how we relate to each other. Let us make the choice to work together for God's purpose.

1. Abraham, understanding the seriousness of comradery among believers, after evaluating the situation between his herdsmen and his nephew's herdsmen, came to what sobering conclusion? **Genesis 13: 1 - 9**
2. How did the men of God work together and what was the result of this united effort? **Exodus 17: 8 - 13**
3. Nehemiah, the man of God, was concerned about the walls of Jerusalem and took time off his work to fortify the city. What lengths did Sanballat and Tobiah go to try and prevent this from happening and what was the driving force behind their opposition? **Nehemiah 2: 10 & 19, Nehemiah 4: 1 - 3, 7 & 8, Nehemiah 6: 1 - 7**
4. What strong warning went out to the brethren in Corinth that is still applicable in christendom today? **1 Corinthians 6: 1 - 8**
5. How are believers expected to conduct themselves? **Romans 12: 9 – 21, Romans 15: 5 & 6, Hebrews 13: 1, 1 Peter 2: 17, Philippians 2: 2 - 5.** What prayer did our loving Master make on our behalf? **John 17: 20 - 23**

6. Even after the death of Korah for rebelling against Moses the people still had a problem with Levi being the priestly tribe. In what way did God settle the dispute? **Numbers 17: 1 - 11**
7. Without preaching a word what would the world use to identify that we are Jesus' disciples? **John 13: 34 & 35**
8. Having an overly competitive spirit opens the door of our hearts to what cancerous sin? **1 Samuel 18: 6 - 9**. Also, how far will envy for our brethren lead us? **1 Samuel 19: 1 - 3**
9. While we scoff and cringe at some sins that we tell ourselves has great implications, isn't emulation a subtle yet divisive and destructive sin listed among them? **Galatians 5: 19 - 21**

**Note:** According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, emulation is the ambition or endeavour to equal or excel others in achievement. Not achieving this desired outcome oftentimes leads to jealousy, rivalry or ill-will. God did not call us to strive to be better than our brethren since we are told to esteem each other better than ourselves. We are in the same army working for the same Master, aspiring for the same kingdom which has enough space for all of us. Let us strive to be the best version of ourselves while helping others to see the best in themselves. No one has ever gotten far by tearing down another. Our duty is to pull each other out of the fire. Be inspiring, loving, forgiving, tender hearted and kind. Working together to tear down Satan's kingdom and to build the kingdom of God. Since Jesus and His Father are one, we too must be united in order to hear well done. We are called to fight the good fight of faith not each other. Let us think on these things.

