

# Growing older together...

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*Before we read...*

**团结是力量**

What does that Chinese idiom mean? Do you know the story behind it?

Not all Chinese superstitions or idioms are true. Is this idiom something to take seriously? Or is it all just Chinese hoopla?

*Scripture*

Ephesians 4: 1-16.

*Questions for Thought*

[1] Verse 1: What is this “calling” the Ephesians have received?

*Note: Those of you with study bibles—look at the notes!*

[2] Verses 3-6: Why the big deal with unity?

[3] Verses 7-13: What is this “grace” Paul’s talking about?

[4] Verse 14: What is a spiritual infant?

*Deeper Reflections*

[A] What does it take to become a member of a Church? Or, to put it differently, what does it take to become a Christian?

[B] Is there a problem with the “Chinese Church”?

[C] Where do we draw the line between a proper and a not-proper Church? Perhaps a better question is: are differences acceptable in the church? What kind?

*Case Study*

The Anglican Communion is the largest Protestant denomination in the world with 77 million members. More than half of its members come from the “Global South” where most of the Anglican Christians are conservative, like Africa and Asia. The European, Canadian, and American Anglican churches tend to be more liberal.

In 2002, the Canadian Anglican Church allowed homosexual marriages, which drew condemnation from the “Global South”. The next year, the U.S. Anglican Church (called the Episcopal Church) ordained a gay bishop in New Hampshire. Many “Global South” churches were so angry they excommunicated the American and Canadian churches and sent missionaries into the U.S. and Canada!

The head of the Anglican Communion is the Archbishop of Canterbury. You receive a letter from him asking for your thoughts on how to best proceed biblically.