Working Together... Unto the Lord Living in Community (Ezra-Nehemiah) Series - Ezra 3:1-4:3 March 13, 2016, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

Ezra-Nehemiah in historical/ biblical context: begin transition to church age

Godly leadership and unity of leaders is essential and demonstrated in Ezra 3

The congregation went beyond the minimum required of them – there were **100%** engaged and invested in the Lord's work.

Plurality of **leadership** is valuable (3:8-9)

United leadership functions as **one** (v. 8-9)

The congregation celebrated in unified corporate worship (v10-11)

When troubles start (3:12-13)

Not everyone was happy – some were, in fact, sad. (v.12-13)

Negativity in a few can infect a congregation

The congregation continued to function as one in spite of this, the first, major split

They were heard afar off

Adversaries arise (4:1-3)

Negative response: The danger of infiltration by unbelievers

Positive response: The importance of "we ourselves **together** building"

Working together unto the Lord is primary and important goal. Completing the task is secondary to this.

Get involved in biblical community to <u>discover</u> your spiritual gifts. Stay involved to <u>develop</u> them.

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