

"WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER"



1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-11

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“WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER”**1 CORINTHIANS 3:9-11****INTRODUCTION**

AS I PRAYED AND PREPARED TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE, IT WAS THE BACKGROUND AND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT THAT FIRST GRABBED MY ATTENTION.

WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE MEMBERS OF THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH, IT IS CLEAR FROM PAUL'S WRITINGS THAT THERE WAS AN ISSUE OF IDOLATRY.

KNOWN THROUGHOUT HISTORY AS A CITY OF GREAT WEALTH, THE AREA SURROUNDING CORINTH WAS A PRIMARY TRADE ROUTE BETWEEN ITALY AND THE CONTINENT OF ASIA.

PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS CAME TO CORINTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONAL PROSPERITY.

AND IT IS HERE IN THE MIDST OF THIS LAVISH LOCATION, THAT THE LORD SO WILLS TO PLANT A LOCAL CHURCH.

ACTS CHAPTER 18 TELLS US HOW IT WAS OUT OF GREAT FRUSTRATION AND PERSONAL TURMOIL, THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL WORKED TO ESTABLISH THIS LOCAL ASSEMBLY.

I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WERE GREEDY IN CORINTH, BUT THEY WERE NOT EASILY CONVINCED ABOUT THIS GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

AFTER ALL, THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS ROOTED IN SUBMISSION. AND THE LAST THING YOU WANNA HEAR WHEN YOU'RE PROSPEROUS, IS ABOUT A POOR

MAN NAMED JESUS WHO GAVE EVERYTHING HE HAD.

HISTORY REVEALS THAT IT WAS THE RELIGIOUS AND SO-CALLED SPIRITUAL PEOPLE WHO REJECTED THE MESSAGE OF CHRIST.

AND IN [ACTS 18:6], WHEN THEY BLASPHEMED AGAINST THE LORD, IT SAYS THAT PAUL SHOOK *HIS* RAIMENT, AND SAID UNTO THEM, YOUR BLOOD *BE* UPON YOUR OWN HEADS; I AM CLEAN: FROM HENCEFORTH I WILL GO UNTO THE GENTILES...

IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE REJECT THE TRUTH, THERE ARE SOME NON-RELIGIOUS PEOPLE THAT WILL WELCOME SOME GOOD NEWS.

AND EVEN WHEN THE MESSAGE IS REJECTED IN THE SYNAGOGUE, AS LONG AS YOUR HOUSE IS AVAILABLE, JESUS WILL BE RIGHT THERE IN THE MIDST OF YOU...

[VERSE 7] SAYS THAT PAUL DEPARTED FROM THERE. AND HE ENTERED INTO A CERTAIN MAN'S HOUSE, NAMED JUSTUS, ONE THAT WORSHIPPED GOD, WHOSE HOUSE JOINED HARD TO THE SYNAGOGUE. ⁸ AND CRISPUS, THE CHIEF RULER OF THE SYNAGOGUE, BELIEVED ON THE LORD WITH ALL HIS HOUSE; AND MANY OF THE CORINTHIANS HEARING, BELIEVED, AND WERE BAPTIZED. ⁹ THEN SPAKE THE LORD TO PAUL IN THE NIGHT BY A VISION, BE NOT AFRAID, BUT SPEAK, AND HOLD NOT THY PEACE: ¹⁰ FOR I AM WITH THEE, AND NO MAN SHALL SET ON THEE TO HURT THEE: FOR I HAVE MUCH PEOPLE IN THIS CITY. ¹¹ AND HE CONTINUED THERE A YEAR AND SIX MONTHS, TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD AMONG THEM.

DID YOU HEAR WHAT IT SAID WHEN IT TALKED ABOUT JUSTUS' HOUSE?

IT SAID THAT IT WAS JOINED HARD TO THE SYNAGOGUE. THAT MEANS IT WAS RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

AND THE POINT OF CONVICTION THAT KNOCKED ME UPSIDE THE HEAD, IS THAT GOD WILL DO MORE OUTSIDE THESE WALLS, IF THE FOLK INSIDE ACT LIKE THEY DON'T WANNA RECEIVE WHAT THUS SAYETH THE LORD...

THEY WERE SO CONSUMED WITH MONEY, THAT THEY MISSED OUT ON THE MOVE OF THE MASTER.

AND REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH WEALTH IS IN YOUR TOWN, THAT TOWN IS STILL CORRUPT IF YOU PLACE WEALTH ABOVE THE WORD...

I NEED TO GO AHEAD AND CUT ACROSS THE FIELD BECAUSE MY TIME ISN'T LONG.

THIS IS JUST THE INTRODUCTION. BUT I NEED YOU TO FEEL ME ON THIS.

THE VALUES OF A CONVENTION, ARE ALWAYS SEEN IN THE BEHAVIOR OF ITS PEOPLE.

AND JUST AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF PAUL IN CORINTH, WE TOO HAVE DEVELOPED AN ADDICTION, TO WEALTH AND PERSONAL PROSPERITY.

HERE'S WHAT I MEAN. EVER SINCE THE FALL OF MAN, PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO WORSHIP.

CERTAIN CULTURES WORSHIP NATURE, WHILE OTHERS WORSHIP MATERIAL THINGS.,

BUT EVEN IN THE BIBLE DAYS, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WORSHIPPING EVERYTHING AND EVERYBODY ACCEPT GOD...

ISRAEL STAYED IN TROUBLE BECAUSE EVERY TIME MOSES WENT TO GO TALK TO GOD, THEY WERE DOWN IN THE VALLEY DANCING AROUND A GOLDEN CALF.

AGAIN NOW, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO WERE HEATHENS AND DIDN'T KNOW NO BETTER.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE VERY SAME ISRAELITES THAT WERE DELIVERED FROM THE HAND OF THEIR ENEMY...

SO NOW HERE WE ARE 2000 YEARS LATER, WE HAVE A NATION OF PEOPLE TO WHOM GOD HAS BEEN GOOD. BUT YET WE FIND OURSELVES WORSHIPPING ANY AND EVERYBODY EXCEPT HIM.

1. WE LET OUR WORK COME BEFORE OUR WORSHIP.
2. WE LET OUR JOBS TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER JESUS.
3. WE PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON MONEY THAN WE DO THE MASTER.
4. AND OUR STUFF HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SOURCE...

THAT'S WHY THERE NEEDED TO BE A CHURCH IN CORINTH. BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE BELIEVERS AT HEART, THERE WERE SOME '*MENTALITIES*' THAT CREPT IN FROM THE CITY TO THE SAINTS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THERE WERE CHURCH FOLK WHO WERE HUNG UP ON FAME AND FORTUNE.

THEY LIKED THE IDEA OF BEING A BIG TIME PROSPEROUS CHURCH.

AND THE MISTAKE THEY MADE AS I HURRY TOWARD THE TEXT, IS THAT THEY ELEVATED THEIR MINISTERS INTO SUNDAY MORNING CELEBRITIES.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THE POINT WE ALL NEED TO RECOGNIZE IS THAT THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN APPRECIATION AND IDOLATRY.

I AGREE WHOLEHEARTEDLY THAT WE SHOULD APPRECIATE OUR SERVANT LEADERS. BUT NOT TO THE POINT WHERE OUR MINISTRIES BECOME ABOUT THEM.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU HAD SOME WHO WERE SAYING THAT THEY WERE OF PAUL, AND OTHERS SAYING THAT THEY WERE OF APOLLOS.

BUT THE CORRECTION THAT PAUL HAD TO MAKE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING IS THAT NEITHER HE NOR APOLLOS WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN JESUS CHRIST.

[VERSE 5] SAYS WHO THEN IS PAUL? AND FOR THAT MATTER, WHO IS APOLLOS?

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE AROUND HERE, WE ARE ALL JUST SERVANTS AND MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN MY PREACHING THAT DREW YOU TOWARD SALVATION. BUT IT WAS NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS THAT DID THE SAVING.

ONE MAN PLANTS, AND ONE MAN WATERS. BUT IT IS GOD AND ONLY GOD THAT CAN GIVE AN INCREASE.

AND I WONDER HAVE WE GOTTEN TO THE POINT IN OUR CONVENTION, WHERE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS THING AIN'T ABOUT US.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, GOD COULD HAVE USED ANYBODY TO CARRY OUT HIS WORK.

AND EVEN THOUGH WE MAY APPEAR TO BE GOOD AT IT, MAKE NO MISTAKE THAT IT IS GOD WHO GIVES THE INCREASE.

YOU SEE, WHAT HE'S SAYING TO US IS, WE DON'T NEED TO BE GETTING CAUGHT UP IN PERSONALITIES AND PERSONAL AGENDAS, BECAUSE REGARDLESS OF WHO WE ARE, WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

AND THE ONLY WAY THINGS WILL GET DONE ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER.

[VERSE 9] SAYS FOR WE ARE LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD: YE ARE GOD'S HUSBANDRY, *YE ARE* GOD'S BUILDING.

THAT WORD HUSBANDRY, IN THE GREEK GIVES THE IMAGE OF A FARM. AND THIS IS THE PART THAT OUGHT TO MAKE YOU SHOUT. "BECAUSE AS WE WORK WITH HIM, THE LORD WORKS ON US."

I SAID AS WE WORK WITH HIM AND FOR HIM, THE LORD WILL WORK IN US AND ON US, FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS KINGDOM.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AS HARD AS I TRY, I CANNOT EXPLAIN TO YOU HOW THE LORD WILL BLESS YOU WHILE YOU SERVE HIM.

SOME OF YOU ALL THINK THAT THE PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO CONTROL YOU OR MAKE YOU DO WHAT HE SAYS.

NO, NO. HE'S TRYING TO GET YOU TO SEE THE BENEFITS OF OBEYING GOD, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW HE CULTIVATES YOUR CHARACTER.

YOU SEE, ON ONE END GOD SAYS, WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER. BUT THEN ON THE OTHER END WITH THIS WHOLE HUSBANDRY THING, GOD SAYS WHILE YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME, I'M WORKING ON YOU.

THE REASON WHY SOME FOLKS HAVEN'T MATURED PAST MILK AND MOVED ON TO MEAT, IS BECAUSE WE'RE STILL STUCK ON THE FACT THAT SOME MAN IS TELLING US WHAT TO DO.

DON'T YOU SEE THAT BY US WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD, HE USES THE MEAT OF HIS WORD TO STRENGTHEN US IN OUR DAILY WALK.

FROM THE PRESIDENT ALL THE WAY TO THE PARKING LOT ATTENDANT, THE LORD IS DISCIPLINING, DELIVERING, AND DEVELOPING OUR CHRISTIAN CHARACTER!

JUST THINK ABOUT THE FARM:

- 1. YOU PLANT SOMETHING, OR YOU FEED SOMETHING, AND THEN YOU'RE ABLE TO LIVE OFF THE FRUIT OF YOUR LABOR.**
- 2. YOU PLANT COLLARD GREENS, LATER ON YOU EAT COLLARD GREENS.**
- 3. YOU RAISE UP A FEW HOGS. AFTER A WHILE YOU GET BACON FOR BREAKFAST AND PIG FEET FOR DINNER.**
- 4. SO IF PAUL SAYS THAT THE CHURCH IS LIKE A FARM TO THE LORD, THEN WHY IS HE'S NOT GETTING A RETURN ON WHAT HE PLANTED?**
- 5. IF THIS CONVENTION IS LIKE A FARM TO THE LORD, THEN WHY IS HE'S NOT GETTING A RETURN ON WHAT HE HAS PLANTED.**

THINK ABOUT IT NOW. HE GAVE YOU A JOB. AND THAT JOB PAYS YOU MONEY. SO WHERE IS HIS 10 PERCENT AS COMMANDED IN HIS WORD?

HE GAVE YOU A BODY, AND HE GAVE YOU A MIND. SO HOW MUCH OF YOUR ENERGY IS DEVOTED TO SERVING HIS PURPOSE?...

SOME OF YOU STILL DON'T SEE THE PARALLEL BETWEEN WHAT YOU DO, AND WHAT GOD DOES.

SOME OF YOU ALL BELIEVE THAT GOD IS GOING TO BE GOOD TO YOU ANYHOW.

BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT GOD WON'T DO IN YOUR LIFE, UNTIL YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO PUT HIM FIRST.

HE SAYS: "WE ARE LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD. AND YOU ARE THE FARM WHERE GOD PLANTS HIS RICHEST BLESSINGS.

AND IF YOU SPEND ENOUGH TIME LETTING THE LORD CULTIVATE YOUR CHARACTER, PRETTY SOON WE'LL DEVELOP INTO A SOLID AND STABLE BUILDING.

PAUL SAYS: "ACCORDING TO THE GRACE THAT GOD GAVE ME, I HAVE LAI D THE PROPER FOUNDATION FOR YOU ALL TO BUILD ON.

AND IF YOU CAN'T SHOUT ABOUT NOTHING ELSE, YOU BETTER BE GLAD THAT THE CHURCH, THE ASSOCIATIONS AND THIS CONVENTION IS FOUNDED ON THE SAVIOR AND NOT ON THE PASTOR, THE MODERATOR OR THE PRESIDENT.

WHAT YOU SEE NOWADAYS, IS AN INFLUX OF AMERICAN PULPIT IDOLS.

AND THE PROBLEM WITH THAT KIND OF IDOLATROUS BEHAVIOR, IS THAT EVENTUALLY YOUR IDOL WILL PROVE HIMSELF TO BE HUMAN,

I DON'T KNOW NOBODY, AND I'M NOT SAYING NOTHING ABOUT NOBODY. BUT IF YOU ARE WALKING AROUND LIKE YOU ARE 'JESUS JUNIOR', GOD'S GOT A WAY OF MAKING SURE THAT YOUR PRIDE WILL LEAD TO A FALL.

PAUL SAYS TAKE HEED HOW YOU BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION.

AND I JUST BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH WAS DOING A WHOLE LOT BETTER BEFORE THE MEDIA AND THE WORLD STARTED LIKING US.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT. THE KIND OF PREACHING JESUS DID, THE WORLD DIDN'T INVITE HIM TO COME PREACH IN NO STADIUM.

NO GOVERNORS WERE TRYING TO SNAP PICTURES WITH PAUL.

NOBODY WAS SENDING TIMOTHY NO TICKETS TO THE GAME.

THE GOSPEL THEY PREACHED WAS OFFENSIVE. AND IT CONVICTED MEN AND WOMEN TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD.

LET ME ASK YA'LL SOME QUESTIONS: WHEN DID PREACHING BECOME POPULAR?

- WHEN DID PREACHERS BECOME ROCK STARS?
- WHEN DID PREACHERS BECOME SO HELPLESS THAT THEY STARTED NEEDING ARMOR BEARERS?
- WHEN DID PREACHERS BECOME SO SCARED THAT THEY NEED BODY GUARDS?

- WHEN DID PREACHERS BECOME TOO GOOD TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THEIR MEMBERS?
- WHEN DID PREACHERS BECOME TOO ANOINTED TO HUG OLD PEOPLE?
- WHEN DID WE BECOME SO SEDIDY IN THE CHURCH, TO WHERE THE TITLE OF MINISTER IS TOO SMALL FOR US TO CARRY?
- NOW EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE AN APOSTLE.
- EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE A BISHOP.
- EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE A PROPHET.
- EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE AN OVERSEER

JESUS SAID, “THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST AND THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST. AND THE GREATEST OF YOU SHALL BE MY SERVANT!”

ALL YOU FOLKS WHO DON'T LIKE TRADITION, THE BIBLE CLEARLY SAYS THAT THE FOUNDATION IS GOOD ENOUGH.

1. YOU BETTER BE CAREFUL ABOUT ADDING ON YOUR LITTLE STUFF TO THE BIBLE.
2. BE CAREFUL ABOUT BUILDING ON YOUR OWN INTERPRETATIONS OF SCRIPTURE.
3. IF THE CHRIST THAT PAUL PREACHED WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO SAVE THEM, THEN I'M DETERMINE TO STICK WITH WHAT I KNOW, BECAUSE AT LEAST THIS GOSPEL HAS BEEN TRIED AND PROVEN.

“THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FADES. BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD, SHALL STAND FOREVER.”

**“MY HOPE S BUILT, ON NOTHING LESS,
THAN JESUS’ BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS,
I DARE NOT TRUST THE SWEETEST FRAME,
BUT WHOLLY LEAN ON JESUS’ NAME.”**

**ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK I STAND,
ALL OTHER GROUND IS SINKING SAND.**

**FOR NO OTHER FOUNDATION CAN NO MAN LAY,
THAN THE ONE THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN LAID
WHICH IS JESUS CHRIST.**

**THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO STAND TOGETHER, IN
THESE LAST AND EVIL DAYS.**

**BECAUSE THE TIME IS AT HAND WHERE THE WORLD
WILL COME AGAINST YOU.**

1. OUR VALUES ARE UNDER ATTACK;
2. OUR ORDINANCES ARE UNDER ATTACK;
3. OUR FAMILIES ARE UNDER ATTACK;
4. OUR CHILDREN ARE UNDER ATTACK;
5. OUR INSTITUTIONS ARE UNDER ATTACK;
6. THE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE
ARE UNDER ATTACK.

**BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, IN THE MIDST OF A WICKED
SOCIETY, THE ONE HOPE THAT PEOPLE HAVE IN
THIS WORLD, IS THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.**

1. CHRIST IS THE HEAD, AND WE ARE THE BODY.
2. CHRIST IS THE SHEPHERD, AND WE ARE THE
SHEEP;

3. CHRIST IS THE VINE, AND WE ARE THE BRANCHES;
4. CHRIST IS THE KING, AND WE ARE THE SUBJECTS;
5. CHRIST IS THE MASTER, AND WE ARE THE SERVANTS;
6. CHRIST IS THE COMPOSER, AND WE ARE THE INSTRUMENTS.

AND EVERY NOW AND THEN, WHEN WE ALL COME TOGETHER, THERE OUGHTA BE A SANCTIFIED SYMPHONY OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE TO OUR GOD.

THERE OUGHTA BE SOME STRUMMING, IN YOUR SPIRIT, AND SOME PLUCKING, IN YOUR HEART.

THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME CRASHING, IN YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND SOME MELODIES, IN YOUR SOUL.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE, UNTO THE LORD, ALL YE LANDS. YOU OUGHTA SERVE THE LORD, WITH GLADNESS...

“A CHARGE, TO KEEP I HAVE,
A GOD TO GLORIFY,
WHO GAVE HIS SON MY SOUL TO SAVE
AND FITTED FOR THE SKY.”

THERE'S SOMEBODY HERE TONIGHT, WHO HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES. BUT YOU WOKE UP THIS MORNING, WITH YOUR MIND, STAYED ON JESUS. AND IF YOU COULD JUST MAKE IT, TO THE CHURCH, EVERYTHING, WOULD BE ALRIGHT...

TO SOME PEOPLE, THE CHURCH IS JUST A MEETING PLACE. BUT THERE'S A FEW OF US IN HERE, WHO KNOWS THAT IT'S A PLACE FOR MIRACLES.

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE STILL HERE, THAT'S A MIRACLE.

- **THE FACT THAT YOU SURVIVED THE TRAGEDY IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACT THAT YOU DIDN'T LOSE HOPE IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACE THAT YOU DIDN'T GO CRAZY IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACT THAT YOU DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACT THAT YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR RIGHT MIND IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACT THAT YOU STILL HAVE A JOB IS A MIRACLE;**
- **THE FACT THAT YOU STILL HAVE A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD IS A MIRACLE.**

AND IT DOESN'T MATTER, WHAT THE STAR LEDGER SAYS, WHEN I COME TO THE CHURCH, I CAN EXPECT SOME GOOD NEWS.

1. **I DON'T KNOW, WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE WHITE HOUSE. BUT I WAS GLAD, WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, LET US GO, INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.**
2. **I'M NOT WORRIED, ABOUT STUFF ON CAPITOL HILL. BECAUSE ALL OF MY HELP, CAME FROM CALVARY'S HILL.**
3. **IT WAS EARLY ONE FRIDAY MORNING, THEY STRETCHED HIS WIDE, AND THEY HUNG HIM HIGH; HE DIED ON CALVARY'S HILL.**

4. THE BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB; BUT HE WASN'T WORRIED BECAUSE HE AND THE FATHER WAS IN IT TOGETHER.
5. HE STAYED IN THAT GRAVE, ALL NIGHT FRIDAY NIGHT, ALL DAY SATURDAY, AND ALL SATURDAY NIGHT;
6. BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, GOD RAISED HIM UP WITH ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.

HE SAID UPON THIS ROCK, I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH, AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

1. **THE BUILDING MAY FALL, BUT THE CHURCH WILL STILL STAND. BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**
2. **BISHOP MAY FALL, BUT THE CHURCH WILL STAND; BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**
3. **ORGANIZATION MAY DIE, BUT THE CHURCH WILL STAND; BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**
4. **ASSOCIATIONS MAY BE NO MORE, BUT THE CHURCH WILL STAND; BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**
5. **CONVENTIONS MAY BE NO MORE, BUT THE CHURCH WILL STAND. BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER**

JESUS BUILT THE CHURCH, THE CHURCHES MAKE ASSOCIATIONS, AND THE ASSOCIATIONS MAKE UP THE CONVENTIONS. THE CONVENTION WILL STAND BECAUSE, WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. !!!