

## SYNERGISM

I read recently of an interesting event that happened in Canada. I have attended and enjoyed tractor-pulls, but this happened at a Canadian horse-pull. It seems that one horse pulled 9,000 lbs. while another pulled 8,000 lbs. What would you think they pulled when they were teamed together? 17,000 lbs.? You'd be wrong if you thought so. Together they pulled 30,000 lbs. Testimony to the old saying that two can do three times the work of one. This is "synergism." The simultaneous action of separate agents working together has a greater effect than the sum of their individual efforts.

What does this mean for us? Only that teamwork and cooperation are extremely important when it comes to efficiently doing the job our Lord has given us to do.

When husbands turn child-raising over to Mom and withdraw their efforts from helping at home they actually cripple the good that an effective home can accomplish.

When Christians neglect the partnership that is fellowship in a local congregation, they cripple the effectiveness of that church's work in a given area. Everyone has noted that the good influence of a church grinds to a halt when there is disunity and division present. Perhaps to a lesser observed degree, but still in effect is the harmful influence of Christians who determine to be spectators rather than participants.

Our worship is richer when numbers of good men lead our hearts from their hearts rather than some clergy system where the "pastor" carries the "show."

Our teaching program gains depth when a variety of adult teachers are encouraged to teach in the adult classes rather than having one man do it all. Teachers always learn more than the students so why not have more teachers? Different methods and voices avoid boredom.

Our curriculum program stays fresh and growing when teachers are allowed to rest and new teachers are developing and growing. New insights and methods are added and the students are the winners.

Our efforts on behalf of the gospel (next weeks meeting, Fall Conference, VBS, radio program, visitation groups, overseas evangelism, greeting visitors, inviting, web page work, etc., etc.) always come together easier and do more good when each one gets involved. When everyone invites, when everyone encourages, when everyone attends, when everyone works...you get "synergism" ? Well, yes, but you get even more. You end up doing what the Lord wanted you to do in the first place. Not "spectate," but "participate."

You're watching out for yourself and for others. *"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."* 1 Tim. 4:16

Two people doing three times the work of one. It's not just for horse-pulls. Are you in the Lord's harness yet or still sitting in the stands?

**Carl McMurray**