

"NO CHRISTIAN GOES IT ALONE"

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"Is it really true that all Christians need each other if they are to know God and respond rightly to His love in Jesus Christ?"

"Most of us, most of the time, act as if we did not think so. It is not surprising that we are often criticized for appearing to apeak and act as if we were God, instead of His worshippers and servants! For the most important decisions we have to make cannot be based simply on our limited personal experience and rational powers. The fact is that we do all need one another--and we need also those who have lived in former times, the communion of saints. Only together with other Christians can we be led by the Spirit to know God in Christ, and to love and obey Him.

"In the Ecumenical Movement we have thus been learning, not only the dependence of each Christian upon his brothers but also that the Churches, unhappily still divided, need each other too. There is limitation and distortion of the very knowledge of God when any church or denomination 'goes it alone."

...EUGENE CARSON BLAKE
General Secretary
World Council of Churches

At its very beginnings in 1914 Union Church took an ecumenical position and through the years that decision has been validated. We have discovered in unforgettable experiences that no Christian "goes it alone."

Union Church found it out in the years of World War II; we found it out when the peace came with the church buildings destroyed, the people weary, but through the help of other Christians in this country and from abroad, Union Church was able to re-gather and to grow in strength as a congregation of God's people.

No Christian Goes It Alone

This bed-rock fact of life must be learned in fresh ways by each new generation, our generation as well as the previous ones. It seems to me that the truth of this phrase works out in several important directions for us today:

(1) The words have doctrinal significance. We need our Christian neighbors in order to keep our convictions and concepts in perspective. The fellow Christian is a check and balance upon the natural human tendency to specialize an idea and thereby produce a heresy of what we individually like or need.

(2) "No Christian goes it alone" - These words have human significance too. They mean a lot when we are down and they pose a challenge to us when things are going well. Both ways it takes courage: first, to admit we need the help of God and our neighbor, and also to face up to our responsibility toward the neighbor who needs us. One thing is sure; this is a sentence that gives us something to work on as individuals and as a church.