

Introduction:

“Are you helping Christ or hindering him?” That’s the question posed to us by the principles Jesus taught in Mark 9: 38-41. John tells Jesus they interfered with the ministry of some who were not “following us”, but Jesus answers, “Do not stop them...the one who is not against us is for us.” You can find the sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



“[Christians] need to come together as the body of Christ in order to reach the world with the message of the Gospel.”

Scripture:

“John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us.³ For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.” (Mark 9:38–41 ESV)

So What?

We need to keep in mind who the real enemy is, and it is not other churches or denominations outside of “us.” It really doesn’t matter if you are Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Assemblies, Fellowship, Bible, or Independent. What matters is whether or not you are for Jesus. Instead of competing with other groups, we should show kindness to those who are serving Christ (41). The body of Christ is much bigger than our narrow theological convictions and limited experience. Rather than envy or criticize those who aren’t in our camp, we should celebrate what God is doing.

What Now? Evaluate your attitude toward other Christians. Ask God to show you how to celebrate the work he is doing in the whole of the Body of Christ. Ask yourself:

1. In verse 40 Jesus said “For the one who is not against us is for us.” How do I determine if a person is “for” or “against” Jesus?
2. Is the way I view other churches, denominations, or individual believers based on foundational doctrinal difference or is it due to jealousy? (Compare 9:18 & 38, note “us”).
3. How does Jesus say we are to act toward others of the faith, and what is the result of doing it this way? (see verse 41)
4. Do I interact with other believers in a way that builds up their faith and cooperates in the work that Christ is doing, or do my attitudes and actions hinder the work of God?
5. Are there changes in attitude, speech, or deed that I can make this week in order to celebrate God’s work in the lives of other’s instead of hindering those ministries?

¹ <http://firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

² <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2015/07/19/are-you-helping-christ-or-hindering-him/>

³ “Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”(Matthew 12:30)
Will you gather or scatter?