



Gathering or Scattering

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Gathering or Scattering

- **He Who Is Not With Me Is Against Me**
 - **There are only Two Sides**
 - **Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”**
- **The general thrust of this verse is that in our relationship with Jesus, there can be no neutrality. There is no middle ground with Christ: A person is either with Him or against Him.**



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■ He Who Is Not Against Us Is For Us

- While not as strongly stated, it is equally exclusive of the middle ground
- Mark 9:38-40 “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to hinder him because he was not following us.... Do not hinder him...he who is not against us is for us.”
- Jesus’ reply shows that His view of who could legitimately participate in His mission was not as restrictive as that of the disciples.

Gathering or Scattering

- **Similar Sentiment of the Apostle Paul**
 - **Happy that the Gospel is preached**
 - **Philippians 1:18 “... whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice,”**
 - **This doesn't mean that anyone who is fighting against Satan under the banner of Christ is an honest person.**
 - **Philippians 1:15-17 “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love ... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition.”**

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- **Differences Between Matthew 12 and Mark 9**
 - **In Matthew 12:30, Jesus says, He who is not with Me is against Me.**
 - **But in Mark 9:40, we have, For he who is not against us is for us.**
 - **The difference is not just in the pronouns 'Me' and 'us', but also in the prepositions 'with' and 'for'.**
 - **It is possible to be for Christ and His church, and not be with Christ and His church. In short, you may be doing things for Christ, but you are not necessarily with Him**

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■ For Christ, But Not With Christ

- **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter...*”
- **No one would be for Christ, if he did not believe in Christ in some way.**
- **A genuine Christian is someone who is also with Christ. We must not confuse the idea that if we are for Christ, we are automatically with Him.**

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■ For Christ, But Not With Christ

- **Philippians 1:15-18** “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love ... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition.”
- They are against Christ in the sense that they are not preaching the gospel as it ought to be preached, i.e., out of love. So we have this paradoxical situation in which these people, who are for Christ, are yet in another sense against Christ.

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■ For Christ, But Not With Christ

- **Philippians 1:15-18** “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love ... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition.”
- They proclaimed the name of Jesus. But their preaching of Christ was set against a background of selfish ambition. With their illintentioned hearts, they denied Christ.

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■ For Christ, But Not With Christ

- **Philippians 1:15-18** “Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love ... the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition.”
- **The difference between being ‘for us’ and being ‘with Me,’ i.e., with Christ:**
 - You can preach the word of God for selfish reasons and still be for Christ.
 - But you cannot be with Christ and proclaim Christ in pretense. In Matthew 12:30, there is no question of being for Christ. Twice Jesus uses the expression ‘with Me’.

Gathering or Scattering

- **“...Would Be With Him and that He Could Send them out to Preach.”**
 - **Mark 3:14** **“And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach.”**
 - **He is speaking about being with Him in heart.**
 - **John 17:22-23** **“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”**

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 - **I Corinthians 6:17-20** “But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him...* do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?..”

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 - **He is speaking about being with Him in heart.**
 - **Matthew 11:28-30** **“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.**
 - **It is when we are yoked to Him that we are really with Him. Where He goes, we go. We are identified with Him in our heart, our mind, our soul and our strength.**

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- **He Who Is Not With Me Is Against Me**
 - **Be with Him and Gather With Him**
 - **Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”**
- **He warns us that not being actively engaged in gathering with Him is equivalent to being engaged in scattering from Him.**



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 - **Matthew 12:30 “He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.”**
- **The genuineness of our faith will be seen in the fact that we are active for God.**
- **Scattering is the opposite of Gathering: In the Greek language, they can refer to the gathering of sheep and the scattering of sheep.**



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- **Scattering is the opposite of Gathering: In the Greek language, they can refer to the gathering of sheep and the scattering of sheep.**
 - **John 10:11-16 “...The wolf catches the sheep and scatters them... ” We can act as either a shepherd who is trying to gather the sheep or as a wolf who scatters them.**



Gathering or Scattering

- **Similar Sentiment of the Apostle Paul**
 - **Gathering or Scattering / Building or Destroying**
 - **I Corinthians 3:9-17 “For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building...If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him for the temple of God is holy and that I what you are.”**
 - **You are God's field. And God's workers are working on that field to gather the crop.**
 - **Gather with Christ or Scatter: When we are not with Him, we scatter and may damage the crop. We may ruin the harvest.**

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■ Consideration:

- There can be no neutrality. There is no middle ground with Christ: A person is either with Him or against Him.
- It is possible to be for Christ and His church, and not be with Christ and His church. In short, you may be doing things for Christ, but you are not necessarily with Him
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- It is when we are yoked to Him that we are really with Him. Where He goes, we go. We are identified with Him in our heart, our mind, our soul and our strength.
- We either build or we destroy.
- We either gather or we scatter.

