

THE BEST DEFENSE

Life Groups
August 13, 2017

Introduction: Have you noticed... if there is something good in us, we have a tendency to wander from it. As most of you know well, the current of life rarely takes us in the right direction. Left to our own devices, we drift. Why do you think we are admonished to encourage one another daily? Yes, daily! The Christian walk was never intended for isolation but community. Maybe it's time we move from rows to circles.

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

I. What are You Telling Yourself These Days?

*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to **think with sober judgment**, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned (Romans 12:3).*

A. The 'me' in me tends to drift toward unhealthy thinking.

²⁵ *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.* ²⁶ **Let us not become conceited**, provoking one another, envying one another (Galatians 5:25–26).

So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited (2 Corinthians 12:7).

B. The 'me' in me tends to drift toward willful and selfish thoughts.

*But they did not obey or incline their ear, but **walked in their own counsels** and the **stubbornness of their evil hearts**, and went backward and not forward (Jeremiah 7:24).*

*Yet **they did not obey or incline their ear**, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of his evil heart... (Jeremiah 11:8a).*

II. How Does One Halt Drifting?

⁴ *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ **so we**, though many, **are one body in Christ**, and **individually members one of another** (Romans 12:4–5).

A. 'We' is the best defense against drifting.

⁹ *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.* ¹⁰ *For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. **But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*** ¹¹ *Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but **how can one keep warm alone?*** ¹² *And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—**a threefold cord is not quickly broken** (Ecclesiastes 4:9–12).*

B. 'We' is the best defense against the deceitfulness of sin.

¹² *Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to **fall away from the living God**.* ¹³ *But **exhort one another every day**, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the **deceitfulness of sin**.* ¹⁴ *For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we **hold our original confidence firm to the end** (Hebrews 3:12–14).*

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Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

I. What are You Telling Yourself These Days?

(Romans 12:3)

A. The _____ in me tends to drift toward _____ thinking.
(Galatians 5:25–26) (2 Corinthians 12:7)

B. The _____ in me tends to drift toward _____ and
_____ thoughts.
(Jeremiah 7:24) (Jeremiah 11:8a)

II. How Does One Halt Drifting?

(Romans 12:4–5)

A. _____ is the best defense against _____.
(Ecclesiastes 4:9–12)

B. _____ is the best defense against the _____.
(Hebrews 3:12–14)