

Article 14 Cooperation

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All right, good evening, everybody. Stacey, seven minutes, man, I can't even say my last name in seven minutes. All right, I'm up against leaving.

So Article 14, cooperation, starts off like this. You know, there are many great bodies, I mean, great bodies of water in this world, all right? I just flew over one last night, all right, as I flew over here from Japan, right? I flew over the Pacific Ocean. Some of you like the Atlantic Ocean. Of course, some of you here are impartial to the Gulf of Mexico.

But I, myself, being from the great country of Thailand, I, we love the Gulf of Thailand. In the Gulf of Thailand, boats enter and bring us the greatest import from America, McDonald's hamburgers. And from the Gulf of Thailand, we can ship out our greatest export, no, not me, rice.

How many of y'all like rice? Best rice comes from Thailand, that's right. Through it, my motherland can feed and be fed by the world. Yet for the people inland, the ocean is not a great source of food and trade.

For people inland, it's actually a river called the Chao Phraya River, which flows through the country and irrigates farmland. It allows our floating markets to get people food and for the people to fish.

Yet the Chao Phraya River would not exist without the Ping and Nan Rivers at Nakhon Sawan, which are in the north. As they flow down from the mountains.

The Ping and Nan Rivers would not exist if not from the source. If they didn't have the source from the mountain springs that come from deep in the earth that make those rivers flow down.

The waters come together. They cooperate together to do the job of irrigating the earth so the people can eat and gain life. This is an image and exactly the reason we cooperate as a national convention, as a state convention, and as association.

Our source is not the mountain springs. Our source is the best source and his name is what? That's right, Jesus Christ.

And ***we come together to cooperate for three purposes.***

First off, the very name of this pastor, the theme of this pastor's conference. Confess his glory. It's about his glory.

We cooperate for his glory. **Romans 15:5-6** says, *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice, you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.”*

We cooperate to glorify him, amen?

We cooperate because he told us to. Jesus said, *I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their message.*

Any believers in here, if you believe in Jesus, say amen. *May they all be one as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they all be one in us, so the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me. May they be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. And may they be made completely one, so the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.*

It says that in **John 17, verses 20 to 23.**

But we cooperate also, so that we can reach the lost.

So we can reach not just the people in the big cities and corners of churches that are in plain sight, but so we can reach them as well as the churches reaching the people who live in the cracks and the crevices of the world that need Jesus the most.

We often say Better Together, we often say here at the CSPC that we are better together. And that's just something we say because it rhymes and so we can pretend to rap.

The reality is, it's not just better together, it's best together. And we are best together when we exist as a true family.

Where the ocean can't get to everyone, the rivers can. Where the rivers can't get to everyone, the streams can. And where the streams can't get to everyone, the ponds can, all connected from the springs of water.

And for us, that spring of living water comes from the source, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

So brothers and sisters, let's keep growing together. Let's keep growing together. And let's keep being the church in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

May God bless you. Amen.