

Speaker 1: All right. You tell me when we're rolling.

Our theme these days is three simple words, Nothing Stands Alone. And that concept so invades modern science, modern thinking, that we had to start using a very common word for it, eco. Everything's eco, which means it's connected together. Now, those of us raised Christian were given an ontological, theological, forgive the big words, metaphor for the unity of everything. And it was called the body of Christ. Remember when Paul says, "The hand cannot say to the foot, I do not you. Each body part needs the other." And only in their connectedness, are they the body. That's really brilliant. He came up with this recognition, we've got to get people to unite consciousness. I'm of the opinion that perhaps what is undone, religion in general, Christianity in particular, is its gross individualism, that everybody pursues, not everybody, but an awful lot, pursue religion as a private enlightenment journey. How can I be special, spiritually smart? And I can do it all alone. I don't have to belong to any neighborhood association, which is just a modern word for what used to be church. I don't have to belong to any group because I don't really need support.

But I think now science, physics, biology is saying what theology always tried to say, nothing stands alone. Those of you who are familiar with the years of conference at CAC, you know that going back 25 years, whenever possible, I would invite partner speakers who could say something, maybe parallel to what I was saying, but in their own way. I knew I couldn't stand there alone with any authority. Other people had to affirm it from a scriptural background, a Protestant background, a female background, a gay background. But everybody had to recognize that we were coming to the same conclusions.

Even these daily meditations, you're not reading them alone. I'm happy to tell you that hundreds of thousands of people are reading them with you. So we encourage you to keep that in your mind, that this is not a solitary experience. You're reading with people of other religions, other countries, other genders, other faiths. And I think just that will help you to read them as we say, contemplatively. In other words, it's not to prove them right or wrong, but it's to say I've gotten my level in which I read it. But you know, I bet other people are reading it from a very different perspective. When you can honor those different perspectives, you're contemplative. In other words, you've broken your addiction to your private ego, your separate ego, and you're honoring all the other identities that are reading the same thing, but maybe coming to different emphasis or different conclusions.

Be sure whenever possible to read the daily meditations on Saturday, where you get a quick overview of the previous days of the week. And you're usually given a wonderful, if I can say so, practice brought together by our wonderful team. So you learn how to put head together with heart together with body and you don't just read them in a heady way. Do I agree with it or do I not agree with it? That, as you know, is called dualistic thinking.

So we hope you'll enjoy this period of daily meditations and what they all hope to say is nothing in the universe stands alone. And let me point out the meaning of the word

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universe. I'm back to my Latin again, but I had to take it for six years. Versus means to turn, unos means one, a universe turns around one thing and yet it is diversity turning around one center. There we have it, nothing stands alone, but it does stand together.