

## **Meditation– Better Together**

The American singers and songwriters, Luke Combs and Jack Johnson, both have popular songs entitled “Better Together.”

The country singer, Luke Combs, sings about things that are better together such as a cup of coffee and a sunrise, Sunday drives and time to kill, and good ol’boys and beer.

Jack Johnson, known more for his work of acoustic soft rock, sings about experiences being better together as two people look up at the stars or sit beneath a mango tree.

Both song artists share the joys and the hardships of being together. Luke sings the line that sometimes two people are more like oil and water. Jack’s song lyrics acknowledge how difficult it is to find the right combination of words or the song to sing, for questions of the heart. Questions such as; Why are we here? Where do we go? Or how come it so hard? Jack sings that love is the answer. Life is not always easy and sometimes life can be deceiving, but the one thing Jack sings, *it’s always better when we’re together*.

As teenagers, Dillon and Katie, began to learn this same truth, *it’s always better when we are together*. From their first date at Wright’s Dairy Rite in Staunton to enjoying nights hanging out with friends, life was surely better together.

Although I have known Katie and Dillon for a few years now, it was not until a few months ago that I had the privilege of hearing them share together different pieces of their love story. They talked about the car rides back and forth to Riverheads that helped decompress from the school day before returning home or attending football practice. They recalled the fun times spent with friends hanging out together from B’Dubs to backyard barbeques. They spoke about the decisions to care for their dog named Grizzy and purchase a new home in Churchville. Lastly, they spoke of the constant support given to each other during loss.

In their relationship, Dillon and Katie allow challenges to unite them rather than divide them. I remember Dillon saying, "Through it all we grew better together. We grew in relationship with each other through the challenges. I love that Katie walked with me and we both changed for the better."

Companionship is a gift. Two are better than one in the good times and hard times of life. Human beings are created to be in relationship with God and with one another. We learn how-to live-in relationship best from our Creator, who will never love us any less or any

more. We see this love humbly displayed through the grace of our redeemer Jesus Christ, and we are empowered to live out this love through the gift of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon describes human relationships, be it friendship or marriage, are strengthened with God as the central strand weaved within the lives of two people. This God cord holds together a relationship with an enduring and eternal love.

In Genesis chapter two God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." God made all the animals. Then Adam named them deer, elk, and dove, however a helper was not found among the animals. Man was still alone, so the answer was not found in the creating animals but in creating another human. The constant answer in scripture to the question, "Am I on my own?" is a resounding no! Throughout scripture, we hear the constant refrain that we are not alone, we are God's beloved, we belong to God, and life is best lived together.

As Jack Johnson sings with a song, and Jesus proclaims with his life, love is the answer. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Katie and Dillon, this love drew you both together in high school. This love is present on the mountaintop during your wedding. And this love will lead your marriage with truth and grace.

Although marriage may feel like oil and water sometimes, keep saying to each other "I love you," keep cooking each other's favorite meals, even if it is lasagna, and keep holding hands in the hard times.

As rings are exchanged and names are changed, may this day mark a new chapter in your love story as husband and wife. May the promises you make to each other this evening reveals a deep and abiding love that shows the world that life truly is better together.