

Across Montana 2010 Flying in Formation

Even though the author of this article is unknown it is scientifically accurate. I have added a few Scriptures from Paul's letter to the Christians in Galatia so that we can enjoy the truths even more.

The Wisdom of Flying Geese

In the spring, when you see geese heading north for the summer or south in the fall, flying along in "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what scientists have discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following.

By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. **Galatians 6:2 – Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.**

Basic Truth #1 - People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front and to give a lift to others behind. **Galatians 6:9 – So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.**

Basic Truth #2 - If we really are geese, we will stay in formation with those who are heading in the same direction as we are. We will do this for our own sake and for theirs.

When the lead goose gets tired, he is allowed to rotate back in the wing and another goose flies point. **Galatians 6:10 – Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.**

Basic Truth #3 - It pays to take turns doing hard jobs, with people or with flying geese.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. **Galatians 5:26 – We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

Basic Truth #4 - We need to be careful that what we honk from behind encourages rather than discourages.

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with their group. **Galatians 6:1 – Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you won't be tempted also.**

Basic Truth #5 - If we have the same caring as geese, we will stand by each other, we will protect one another, and we will join others who seem to be going in the right direction.

Geese give us a real insight to what true fellowship looks like in a healthy church. So, does the apostle Paul. Let's make Across Montana 2010 a real example of Southern Baptists flying in formation.