

Riding in the Draft

I remember vividly one of the first days that I rode in a large group of almost 100 bike riders near the Rose Bowl. We turned a corner and headed down a very slight downhill grade that passes the golf course. This was before the days of electronic bicycle speedometers but my riding partner had a small speedometer that mounted on the front wheel and rubbed against the tire to display the speed. My friend had not been in used to riding in large groups and on the first time on the downgrade he looked down at the little speedometer as it was screaming away at 42 MPH. Soon the large pack steadily pulled away from him. The minute the gap had opened to just a few feet there was no hope of him ever catching back up. As he fell behind and the full force of the wind hit him it was like he had hit the brakes.

A large group of riders like the pack at the Rose Bowl can achieve speeds that a single rider can't hope to approach and could never hold more than a few seconds. The wind blast that hits the spectators when a group of 100 cyclists ride by is very similar to a semi truck or a train. Inside any large group like this there are probably seasoned veterans, Olympic hopefuls, beginning racers, sprinters, long distance specialists and perhaps even a few triathletes. There are the young and old, the fat and thin, the athletically fit and those recovering from injuries.

This is much like the church where there are people that are all over the map, spiritually speaking. Some of us are new believers and others are older saints but we all can get together to advance God's kingdom and working in unison we can be a powerful force together each using the gift that God has granted us. Those that want to go it alone or say that they don't need to attend church are soon devoured by the world.

HEB 10:24-25 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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