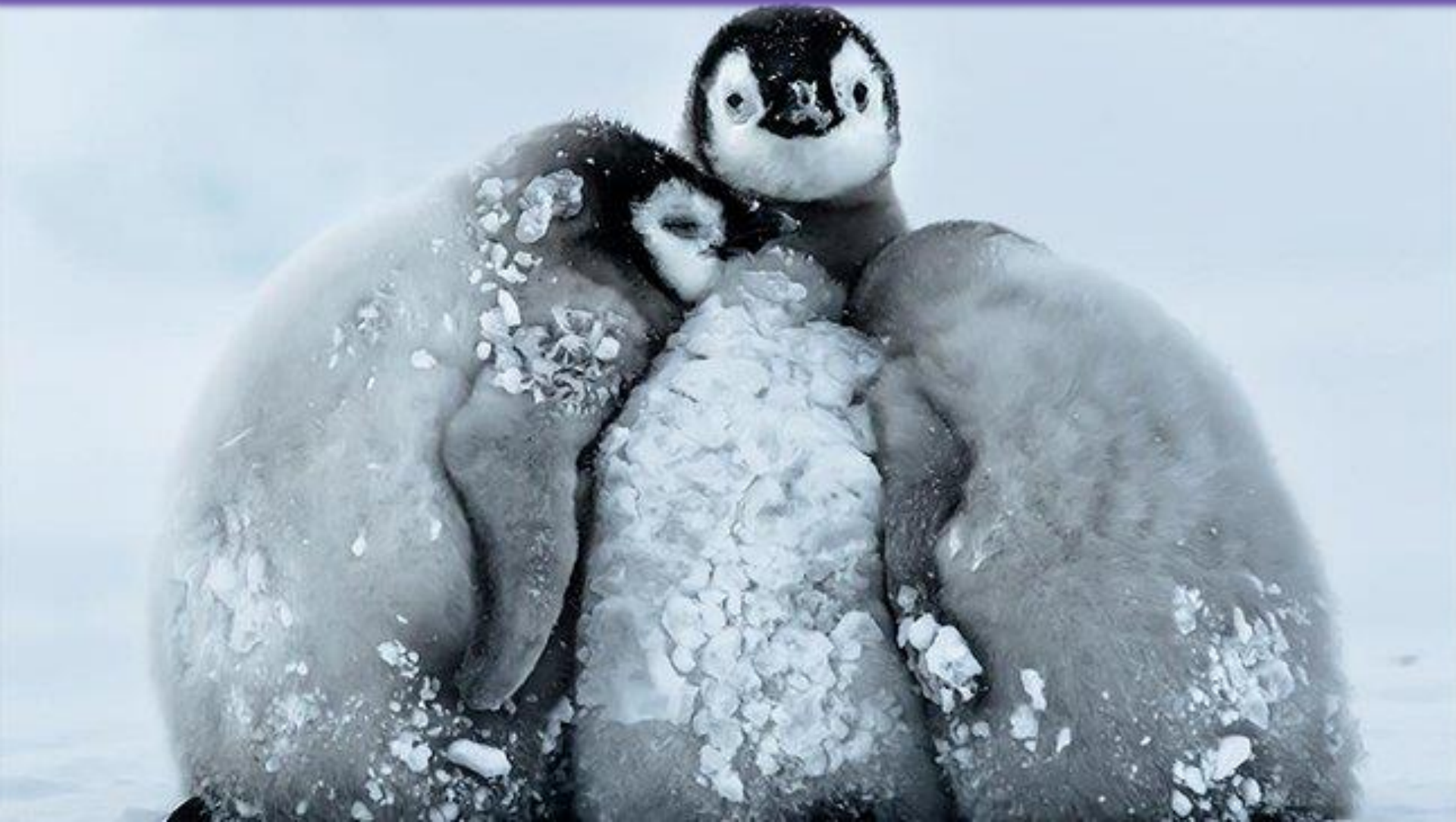


Be Together



Refresher

- Took notice of nature's example of survival in masses.
 - in light of real danger lurking for disciples of Jesus.
- The early disciples (apostles) were **united by purpose**. Jn 21:1-2.
 - Bearing Fruit, Jn. 15:16.
 - Make disciples everywhere, Mark 16:15.
 - Same purpose for us today, 1 Pet. 2:9.
- They **wanted to be together**. Jn. 21: 3.
 - Design, Desire, Directive, Romans 12:5,10,16.

Refresher

- As examples of “being together”, the apostles were just that **thru good and thru bad**.
 - Jn. 21: 4-6. “bad times” yet together.
 - Jn. 21: 10-14. “good times” still together.
 - martyrdom for Christ could be seen as the worst and best of times for the Master. Phil. 1:21.
 - Example #1, Peter and John censored. Acts 3-4.
(persecution to glorying their suffering and praise leading to prayer.)

Be Together

- Thru Good and Bad cont'd.

- Example #2, Acts 11:1-2 “Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him,”

- vs. 4 “But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying:”

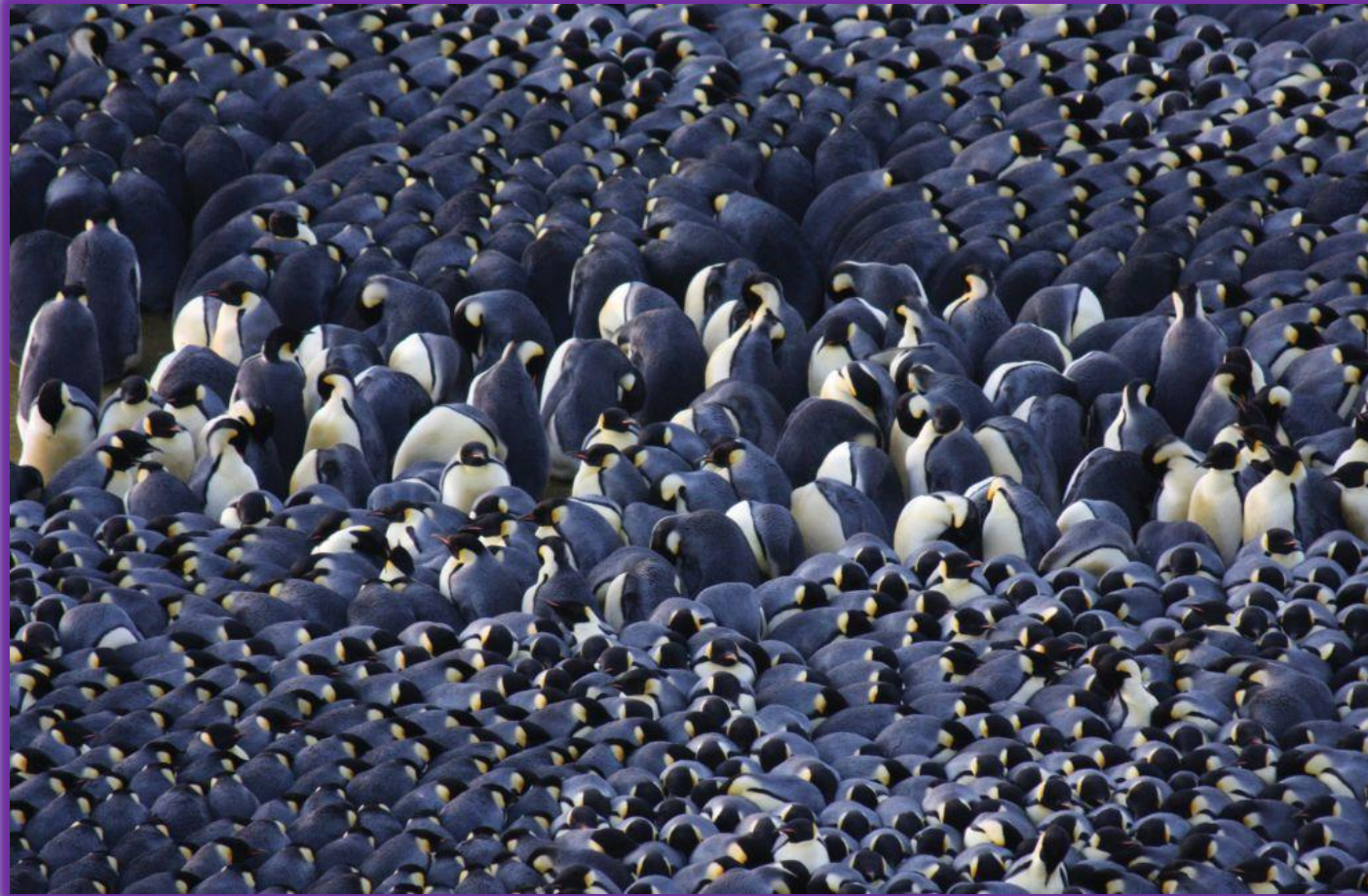
- vs. 18 “When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

Be Together

- **Thru Good and Bad cont'd.**

- Begins with seemingly two parties (division ?), ends with solidarity. Why?
- The Truth.

Be Together



Be Together

- Unity.

- The many have become one.

- Jn. 17:11 “Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

- vs. 20-21 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Be Together

- Unity cont'd.

- Flock.

- Jn. 10:16 “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

- Matt. 18:11-14.

- Do we identify as portion of the flock? Why?

- At one time, each of us were the sheep lost, weak, helpless, and ready to die.

Be Together

- Unity / Flock analogy cont'd.

- Luke 12:32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

- Acts 20:29 “For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”

- Body.

- Col. 1:18 “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Be Together

- Unity / Body analogy cont'd.

- 1 Cor. 12:12 “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”
- Do you identify as your function or as the “body”?
- vs. 14-20. “... many members, yet but one body.”
- vs. 25 “There should be no schism in the body...”
- vs. 25 cont'd. “... but that the members should have the same care for one another.”
- Reciprocating anatomy- costovertebral joints.

Be Together

Psalms 133:1

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!”