You have three things that make up this definition of “Knit Together:”

1. Unite or knit together
   a. **Demonstrate a pattern**
   b. **Attention to detail**
   c. **Something knit has purpose**

2. Prove or put together in reasoning

3. Instruction and teaching.

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**Colossians 2: 1-6**  For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and[1] of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it[2] with thanksgiving.

Paul had not seen anyone from either Colossae or Laodicea except Tychicus as mentioned as the one who is delivering the letter and of course Onisimus who is a brother in Christ mentioned later on in chapter four and also in his letter to Philemon who is to receive him as so and not as a slave. Paul see this fact of not having physical contact with them as a conflict. Though he does make mention it in Philemon verse 22 But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you. Paul is a missionary for Christ, and is used to seeing many Christians and on all of his journey’s he went around Colossae and Laodicea every time. That may have played a factor in his conflict of not seeing them since this letter is addressing the the false teaching that were creeping in the local church there.

In verse two he says he wants their heart to be encouraged and then he talks of being knit together in love. It’s not enough to just intertwine in love but his using of this word knit. In the Greek the phrase “having been knit together” is
“sumbibazó” “(soom-bib-ad'-zo)” **Short Definition:** I unite, prove, instruct.

**Definition:** (a) I unite or knit together, (b) I put together in reasoning, and so: I conclude, prove, (c) I teach, instruct.

You have three things that make up this definition

4. Unite or knit together
5. Prove or put together in reasoning
6. Instruction and teaching.

Just what is Paul telling them when he mentions uniting or knitting? Think about what knitting does. There are three things I will detail for you.

1. **Demonstrate a pattern.** Paul mentions these things in chapter one
   a. Thanking God for them
   b. Praying always for them
   c. Speaks of their love for the saints
   d. He speaks of the truth of the Gospel
   e. He mentions the fruit of the gospel.

These are all things to which we can use to pattern our lives in such a way that God receives the glory and the church is edified.

2. **Attention to detail.**
   a. Paul goes into foundational doctrine of God the Father and God the son in the middle of chapter 1 and details from creation to redemption
   b. to who is at work in our lives
   c. And what was done on our behalf and our condition prior to our being saved.

3. **Something knit has purpose**
   a. Paul is mentioning these things to give them someone to focus on “Christ”
   b. Our creator, redeemer and sustainer
c. He knows that before he gets into the details of what is going on he needs to set the record straight of where they need to stand and whom they need to keep their focus on.

Let me give you a story example in the old testament of some men knitting their lives together to a purpose greater than their own lives. The book of Daniel chronicles a story of four young men carried away from Judah as captives because of the disobedience of the Jewish people in Judah at the time under King Jehoiakim.

**Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.** Daniel 1:3-9

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king. 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

Pattern – Daniel purposes in his heart that he would not defile himself with portions of the Kings food. This carried over to the other three young men who do the same. The Babylonians were trying to change these men to their culture but they refused and stood firm. Lets look at what Romans 12 says to this.

**Romans 12:1-2 Living Sacrifices to God**

12 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Detail – they had certain dietary laws that God had established through Moses and what they were being served failed those standards. What can we look to in the details in our service to God?

**Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

17 Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. 18 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. 20 Therefore

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

These men overcame Evil with good.

Purpose – to Serve and glorify God in the foreign land to which they were put.

Daniel 1 17 -20 17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Daniels interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream

Daniel 2 17-19 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel didn’t just go off on his own even though he was gifted with the understanding of visions and dreams..................
Knit Together
March 3, 2013

Though God had put them in a foreign land he had his hand upon him and they were obedient to his calling. So must we also be where God puts us.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Getting back to the Story

Daniel 3:8-18 8 Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and accused the Jews. 9 They spoke and said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! 10 You, O king, have made a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the gold image; 11 and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. 12 There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego; these men, O king, have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. 18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”

These three men were not going to bow to the pressure of the ruling authority to forsake God. They understood who was in control and were willing to lay down their lives. They counted the cost.

Daniel 3:23-30 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste and spoke, saying to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”
25 “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”[a]

**Nebuchadnezzar Praises God**

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel[b] and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! 29 Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.”

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in the province of Babylon.

These men were committed to God and the pattern of their lives proved through the trials they went through and they achieved the purpose to which God had called them.

1 Peter 3:15-18 15 But sanctify the Lord God[a] in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

**Christ’s Suffering and Ours**

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us[b] to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
Conclusion

There are the three things I mentioned concerning the definition of the phrase “having been knit together” or in the Greek “soom-bib-ad'-zo”.

1. **Demonstrate a pattern**
2. **Attention to detail**
3. **Something knit has purpose**

4. In looking back at Paul’s reference to knitting, when you are making something like a sweater there is much that goes into it. There is the preparation or the pattern that is laid out. Much like the body of Christ we have patterns set up for us in both the old and new testament to follow

5. We have details of the Faith, the gospel, the mystery that Paul laid out not only in the book of Colossians but in many of his, other letters he makes mention of this same mystery revealed.

6. We have a purpose to serve and glorify God.