

***Our Need to Belong***  
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**Introduction:** The Lord created us to need others.

- A. This is a point made clear to Adam after the creation! **(Gen 2:19-24)**
  - 1. This need was satisfied in marriage.
  - 2. In addition to this God made us social creatures who must have relationships.
- B. In our internet and computer age we are lonelier than ever.
  - 1. In Japan men are hired just to listen without judgement.
  - 2. God's word can give us wisdom to better understand ourselves and others.
  - 3. Those who are bought by the blood of Christ have learned the meaning of "one another." **(Heb 10:23-25)**

***I. Why do we need to belong?***

- A. God made us to be like Him. **(Gen 1:26-27)**
  - 1. We are made with the need to love and build up others.
  - 2. God has sought out and provided for men in their time of need. **(Acts 17:26-28)**
  - 3. Our greatest need is to belong to God.
- B. The home composed of parents of faith is a great blessing. **(Eph 6:4)**
  - 1. Many of you need to understand the powerful blessing you have received!
  - 2. The training and instruction of God brings great security and comfort.
  - 3. One of the deep tragedies of our culture is broken and dysfunctional homes.  
.... reveals that humans require social connection for optimal brain development, and that babies cared for in a loving environment are psychological and neurologically 'immunized' by love. When things get difficult in adult life, the neural wiring developed from a love-filled childhood leads to increased emotional resilience in adult life.
  - 4. The scriptures tell us this! **(Heb 10:5-7)**

***II. Understanding the pain of loneliness***

- A. One of the harshest penalties in prison is solitary confinement.
  - 1. The reality series "Alone" was very revealing in this area.
  - 2. There are many elderly who are in fact abandoned.
- B. You do not feel complete and secure. **(Ecc 4:9-10)**
- C. You tend to look upon the past. **(Job 29:1-5)**
  - 1. Could Job return to the past? No!
  - 2. Job's past could be an encouragement to his present mind! **(Psa 22:1-5)**
- D. You tend to focus upon yourself.
  - 1. This is natural, as it is like being hungry. You cannot help but notice!
  - 2. You are made to feel different and even unwanted. **(Job 30:9-10)**
- E. It can drain your energy.
  - 1. You can second-guess yourself and even second-guess God!
  - 2. When left alone our emotions can create a false reality. **(1 Kgs 19:4, 14)**
- F. Consider some Men of faith who were alone and in pain.
  - 1. Jesus – **(Psa 69:20, Jn 16:31-33)**
  - 2. Paul – **(2 Cor 7:4-7)**

### 3. King David – (Psa 142:4)

#### ***III. A major work of every Christian is to connect with and support others***

- A. Make sure your family is connected to you! (**Eph 5:25, 33**)
  - 1. Men can connect at work and other places and neglect the home.
  - 2. We must in wisdom seek a better quality of “connection.” (Put away phones!)
- B. Slow down and listen for the needs of yourself and others!
  - 1. We can schedule ourselves into a prison. We have the key in our hands.
  - 2. Please mature to where you care for others and want to help. (**Phil 2:19-21**)
  - 3. It does not take great ability to help others. It does require an unselfish heart.
  - 4. Some have great Bible knowledge but are “loners” when it comes to associating with and serving others. It is easy to write off others we do not know.
- C. Any one of us can in a moment be placed in a very different world.
  - 1. At the end of Paul’s life he experienced the pain of standing alone. (**2 Tim 4:16**)
  - 2. Job was suddenly thrust us from a world surrounded by people to a hostile world where he was alone. (**Job 29:4-12; 30:10-11, 26-29**)
  - 3. There is a good probability that you will walk down this path in your life!
- D. One can be lonely in the midst of people!
  - 1. It is a certain kind of companionship. Just one person may be enough.
  - 2. Social media, computers and phones are not what is really needed.

Another myth is that loneliness is typically associated with being alone, but it also affects people when they are surrounded by others and well-connected socially. This is because loneliness is about the quality rather than the quantity of relationships that we have, so a person may have a lot of friends but still find that their needs for social contact are not met.

- 3. A local church is not a place to hide but belong! (**1 Cor 12:23-26**)
- 4. How can we make this happen? Do you see and plan to connect with others?

#### ***IV. Trusting God can lead you to an abundant, involved life of service***

- A. When I trust God then I will never be alone!
  - 1. How did Paul and David overcome their loneliness? (**2 Tim 4:16-18; Psa 142**)
  - 2. Place a great value on worship and association with Christians.
  - 3. Consider how Paul overcame an emotional time. (**2 Cor 7:4-7**)
  - 4. Do not let your loneliness lead you to a greater isolation.
- B. I should remember and be compassionate with others when I remember how God helped me in my time of need. (**Lev 19:34, Mt 22:37-40**)
  - 1. What happens when a church or a home is led by selfish men?
  - 2. What has God done in your life and my life in the time of need?
  - 3. If God has blessed you then share that abundance with another.
  - 4. Do we have cliques at this church? Yes, we do. May we grow and mature to do better!

**Conclusion:** A living faith will prepare us to endure when men forsake us. (**Jn 16:32-33**)