

Others Needed!

Today's Reading
Ecclesiastes 4:7-12



When God said in Genesis 2, "It is not good for the man to be alone..." His immediate solution was that of marriage. But the dangers of the isolated life extend beyond your marital status. God designed each one of us to be relationally connected to others. This classic passage from Ecclesiastes 4 makes that very clear

Did you pick up on the dangers of isolation in verses 7 and 8?

1. "...there is no end to his toil..." **Workaholism**...either of necessity or because of lack of balance...is one of the risks that the author observed.
2. "...not content with his wealth..." **Materialism** can creep into the life of the isolated person. He may begin to pour himself into money and things.
3. "For whom...and why..." There is an **emptiness** that results from isolation. For her, joy and enjoyment in life may somehow be missing!

Perhaps, we could summarize the perils of seclusion with words like "imbalance" and "dissatisfaction."

Meanwhile, verses 9-12 remind us of the benefits of connection:

1. "...good return for their work..." Connected people **experience fruitfulness**. Together with others, you can accomplish more.
2. "...his friend can help him up..." Connected people **receive help**. Others come to your side in time of need.
3. "...they will keep warm..." Connected people **offer assistance** to others. You also have something to that blesses people in need.
4. "...two can defend themselves..." Connected people **protect each other**. When opposition comes, you really feel the blessing of community!

Would you consider yourself to be relationally connected? Taking the steps necessary to establish deeper, vulnerable relationships can seem overwhelming. But, it is there that the blessing of life the way God intended it is experienced! Check out this video clip at <http://www.vimeo.com/3912283>.

ABF Communities and Groups at Grace are intended to help you experience that!