

Andy Deane • 3/7/21

IS THIS IT? Loneliness – Where Are My Friends?

Loneliness is not the same as being alone. It's the feeling that you're unwanted by those around you. It's craving human connection & not being able to get it.

"We hunger for intimacy & wither without it." (J. Lepore)

There's an obstacle that sabotages healthy friendships:

We expect too much of people & too little from God!

- People will always seem like they are letting you down, until your deepest needs are met by God.
 - Philippians 4:19, "...my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
- Have you heard this before? "Christianity isn't a religion, but a personal relationship with God."
 - Hebrews 10:22, "let us draw near to God with a sincere heart & with the full assurance faith brings."
- How do you build a relationship with God? Through conversation involving Bible reading & prayer.
 - John 15:15, "I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
- No believer in Jesus is ever truly alone:
 - Luke 5:16, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places..."
 - John 16:32, "...You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me."
 - John 14:18, "I will not leave you..."
- The more we embrace a personal relationship with God, the less we'll need to befriend others as a means of meeting our own needs.

Where do you find good friends? Nearby!

Proverbs 27:10, "...don't go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you, better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away."

Try starting with a life group or serving on a team, and pray the Lord would help you build good friendships.

We get good friends by being a good friend:

Luke 6:31, "Do to others as you'd have them do to you"

Here are 4 ways you can be a good friend to others, regardless of how they respond to you:

#1: Good Friends: Connect Deeply with Others

Proverbs 18:24, "One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

#2: Good Friends: Love Others When They're Hurting

Proverbs 17:17, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."

#3: Good Friends: Build Others Up in Encouragement

1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

#4: Good Friends: Forgive Bad Friends

1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

Are you feeling lonely or disconnected at Cornerstone?

Join the Deane family today at their home for homemade Swedish meatballs by texting "swedish" to (951)425-4425 to RSVP. Men, join me at the whole pig roast on Saturday by texting "pig" to (951)425-4425.