

Pastor Ron Baum • July 18, 2021
“Loneliness is Different than Being Alone”

LONELINESS can be defined as being without companionship. It is not simply being ALONE. Being alone is something commanded in scripture. The Bible talks about the importance of SOLITUDE. Sometimes we are afraid to be alone because we know if we are by ourselves, we will have to deal with our LONELINESS.

LONELINESS is a very SERIOUS thing!

Proverbs 18:24 (MSG) Friends come and friends go, but a true friend sticks by you like family.

Proverbs 1:6 (LB) I want those already wise to become wiser and become leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these nuggets of truth.”

FRIENDSHIP AT ITS WORST

1. People with wrong VALUES.

Proverbs 12:26 (NIV) ²⁶The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

2. People who like to ARGUE.

Proverbs 20:3 (MSG) ³It's a mark of good character to avert quarrels but fools love to pick fights.

3. People who are ABUSIVE.

Proverbs 22:24-25 (MSG) ²⁴Don't hang out with angry people; don't keep company with hotheads. Bad temper is contagious, don't get infected. (Prov 16:29 NLT) Violent people deceive their companions, leading them down a harmful path.

4. People who like to GOSSIP.

Proverbs 20:19 (MSG) ¹⁹Gossips can't keep secrets, so never confide in blabbermouths.

Proverbs 16:28 (MSG) ²⁸Troublemakers start fights; gossips break up friendships.

5. People who remain SUPERFICIAL.

Prov 19:4, 6 (NLT) Wealth makes many "friends"; poverty drives them away. Many beg favors from a prince; everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts!

6. People who FLATTER others.

Proverbs 29:5 (MSG) ⁵A flattering neighbor is up to no good; he's probably planning to take advantage of you.

FRIENDSHIP AT ITS BEST

1. Chose a friend that gives you HONEST Encouragement. - Open

Proverbs 27:5-6 (NLT) An open rebuke is better than hidden love! {6} Wounds from a friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.

Proverbs 27:9 (NLT) The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

2. Chose a friend that gives EMOTIONAL Encouragement. - Loyal

Proverbs 17:17 (MSG) ¹⁷Friends love through all kinds of weather, and families stick together in all kinds of trouble.

3. Chose a friend that gives INTELLECTUAL Encouragement. - Wise

Proverbs 13:20 (MSG) ²⁰Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

4. Chose a friend that gives you PHYSICAL Encouragement. - Caring

Proverbs 3:27 (NLT) ²⁷ Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them.

5. Chose a friend that gives you SPIRITUAL Encouragement. - Godly

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.

BE THE FRIEND THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE

1. Watch your FACE.

Proverbs 15:30 (NLT) ³⁰ A cheerful look brings joy to the heart good news makes for good health.

2. Watch your EYES & EARS.

Proverbs 20:5 (NLT) ⁵ Though good advice lies deep within the heart, a person with understanding will draw it out.

3. Watch your WORDS.

Prov 26:18-19 (NLT) Just as damaging as a mad man shooting a lethal weapon {19} is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

Proverbs 24:26 (MSG) ²⁶ An honest answer is like a warm hug.

Proverbs 11:13 (NLT) ¹³ A gossip goes around telling secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

4. Watch your FEET.

Proverbs 25:17 (MSG) ¹⁷ And when you find a friend, don't outwear your welcome; show up at all hours and he'll soon get fed up.

5. Watch your HEART.

Proverbs 17:9 (MSG) ⁹ Overlook an offense and bond a friendship; hold on to mistakes and—good-bye, friend!