

# Better Together

It isn't only not good for man to be alone, it is not good for humanity to be alone (Genesis 2:18).

*40-45% of Americans experience loneliness on a regular basis*

This means that there are people all around us who are suffering loneliness.

*Most men don't have a real relationship with another man who will speak to.  
Most men don't know who to tell their wife to call if they were in trouble. -  
Steven Mansfield*

## **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT**

*9 Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. 10 If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. 11 Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? 12 A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

## **If You Fall, You Need a Buddy**

Example: hikers use a buddy-line; ropes that connect them so that if they fall they are connected to someone else. If they fall on their own, they would be lost.

Most people only want to know Jesus and be disconnected to everyone else.

## **1 Peter 5:8 NKJV**

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

## **Without a Buddy, You Will Be Cold**

Being connected with someone helps to keep us on fire for God.

We have to have programs in the church because we don't have relationships.

Do you have a relationship with anyone else in the church? Do you have someone you are comfortable talking about your sins and struggles?

God doesn't want us to come to church, He wants us to be the church. He never meant this to be a once or twice a week experience.

We need more than "Sunday Morning" friends. We need to have someone that we connect with on a more than superficial way.

You won't be close with everyone but you need to be close with someone.

You do not grow as a Christian in a vacuum. You need to have relationships in order to grow (Proverbs 27:17).

Some people encourage you to grow and others force you to grow based on their behavior.

## One Another

There are 59 verses that deal with "one another" in the New Testament.

### John 15:12-13 NKJV

**12** *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

**13** *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*

How can we love in deed someone we only see for one hour on a Sunday morning or on a Wednesday night? How can we lay down our life for someone we only briefly talk to at church.

Laying down your life is not limited to physically dying for someone you love. It's also making sacrifices for someone else.

It is laying down parts of your life so you can pick up parts of others lives.

This looks like:

- Helping a friend in times of crisis
- Helping people in times of need
- Helping people in times of sickness
- Helping people to navigate loss and difficulty

Do you have people that love you and are laying down their life for you? Do you love others by laying down their life for you?

### **Galatians 6:1-2 NKJV**

*1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

The law of Christ is to love God with your all and love your neighbor as yourself.

We should be burden sharers and burden carriers.

We have to be able to share our burdens with others as well as be able to help carry the burdens of others.

Some of us are good at carrying others burdens but not sharing our own.

We should have one hand reaching down and one hand reaching up. One person helps us grow and one person you are helping grow.

Who are you in relationship with? Deep relationship.

Shallow relationships will not help us grow to our potential.

## **Conclusion**

We need one another. Don't try to love the Christian life with just you and Jesus. You need other believers in your life.