

GOSPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

PULPIT SERIES

Gospel Community Church, 54 Atlantic Ave. West Sayville, NY 11796

#7

JESUS DRIVEN CHURCH

AGENTS AGAINST WHOLENESS - LONELINESS

Since we taken a good look at the fact that Jesus wants us to have wholeness in our life. Lets now look at those agents that keep us from this WHOLENESS.

In order to do this we must go back to the beginning – Genesis 2 & 3.

LONELINESS

If you remember Adam was created sinless, with free will. He had direct communion with the living God. He always had the opportunity, whenever to talk with God. We are told that he walked with the Lord in the cool of day. Yet even with this wonderful ability to have fellowship with the living God, God saw that Adam was in need for something more.

Gen 2:18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Gen 2:21-25 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead

thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

And so even with perfect communion with the living God, there is something that man needs. We are capable of suffering from what God has revealed called LONELINESS. It is not good for man to be alone.

SIDEBAR

As a sidebar let me say something about the fact that when God had finished His creation He looked upon it and said it was GOOD. Now all of a sudden God states that it is NOT GOOD for man to be alone. Does this mean that God made a

mistake and is now in the process of correcting it? For all the skeptics who try to laugh at God, let me state for the record, that when God states that it is NOT GOOD for man to be alone, He makes this statement for *us*. He is giving us knowledge, special knowledge. God knew when he planned His creation that man needed a mate, just like the animals. After all didn't He say in Gen 1:27-28, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." God never makes mistakes. He is omniscient – all knowing – He sees and foresees. God is giving us this special knowledge so that we would put it to a godly use.

Also let me go to another sidebar quickly

SIDEBAR

Woman was not created from man to be subservient, a slave to him.

Matthew Henry put it this way: “She was not made out of his head to rule over him, not out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be loved.”

Every Sunday we parade the men before the congregation as the leaders. But there is no doubt that we have wonderful, godly woman here. If we ever fail to recognize that, it would be a terrible mistake and an injustice towards the Lord.

And so the Lord recognized from the very beginning that LONELINESS could keep man from being WHOLE, during his earthly tenure.

There are some people who believe that getting along with God and never having relationships with people, will keep them HOLY.

Yet we are reminded the we are to be in the world, but not of it. The Lord knew how important relationships are. For it's in relationships that He refines us and purifies us. You can't be a LONE RANGER. Oh by the way even the LONE RANGER had a sidekick – Tonto!

Even those insect philosophers known as the Beetles knew this when they sang the words about Eleanor Rigby:

“All the lonely people where do they all come from”

“I'm looking over lonely people.”

The song was a sarcastic putdown on their perception of Christianity.

After all the world is full of people:

- desperate for love
- hungry for attention
- wishing someone would care

and no one comes near to hear Father McKenzie's sermons.

It's ashamed that their perception of Christianity was that of organized religion. But Christianity is about a person, JESUS. He never fails those who come to Him.

A Christian minister, Alan Walker, said this about loneliness, “The world is filled with rootless people. So many cannot say the lovely, necessary little phrase, ‘I belong.’”

Look around today at what's happening to many youth who are enticed to join gangs simply because they want a place to belong. And those teenagers who believe they can't fit it are committing suicide.

May I say for the record, when Jesus saves a man, he not only saves him from his sins, he also saves him from his solitude. Jesus is the cure for loneliness. If you are a Christian you need to be reminded that you belong. You are part of His family, the family of God. You have a wonderful family. But it's a family that we all need to learn to relate to. That's why God put

us in this family. Sometimes relationships are hard. But we all need each other. I need you, you need me. Running away to some place of loneliness will never improve your situation Loneliness will drain the very life out of you.

Loneliness will come in through the door of life anywhere you'll let it.

- Through the door of marriage and divorce
- Through the door of change (missing the familiar)
- Through the door of friends (when they are not there for you)
- Through the door of death
- Through the door of solitude
- Through the door of crowdedness
- Through the door of emptiness (homesick for something more out of life)
- Through the door of nostalgia (looking back at what used to be)

Moses went round and round the wilderness for 40 years with millions of Israelites. They often hated him. His job of leadership was very lonely. Most leadership is.

Let me tell you of another who in the midst of the greatest battle in the world, was forsaken by his friends and His loving Father. He was and is, the hero of hero's, the champion of champions – JESUS

As he hung from the cross,

- His disciples fled
- His enemies jeered and mocked him,
- His Father turned His face away

Jesus can identify with your loneliness as no can. "My God, My God why hast thou forsaken me?" At that moment everything turned black in His life.

Loneliness is a desperate feeling. It eats at your insides and bores a hole through your heart. It makes you tired, but keeps you awake. It robs you of happiness and joy. It makes you hopeless, like you'll never get up again. But there is a cure.

Loneliness is the absence of a meaningful relationship. It is not good for man to be alone! We need friends. Even a friend that is closer than a brother.

Jesus looked out from the cross across the generations that would follow:

He saw

- Millions who would be lonely
- Millions who would be let down
- Millions in despair
- Millions in depression from their loneliness

He cries out even now and says, "I know your plight, I can identify. Don't be held captive to loneliness. I have come to set the captive free."

He reminds you, as He promises:

Heb 13:5 ...I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Matt 28:20 ...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world

John 14:18 ...I will not leave you as orphans

Jesus wants to cure your loneliness. He says to you even now – "Here I am,"

Rev 3:20 ...I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Jesus wants a relationship with you. He wants to be your friend. A friend like you never had. Will you let him in?

SIDEBAR

Listen to some of the thoughts Josh McDowell has put together over his last 20 years of talking to youth. I have collated them in an outline form.

The two main problems that kids 9-17 yrs. old have are:

- Low grade anger (festering)
- Want a relationship with their father

The increase in violence among our youth is because of relational disconnectedness

Children know they're disconnected, while parents are in denial.

Fathers need:

- Emotional attachment
- Loving bond
- Intermit connection with their children

He points out that when there is disconnectedness, parents usually intensify the rules/truth.

But Rules without relationship leads to rebellion.

The 6 A's of Authenticity in relationship

AFFIRMATION

Affirming the emotions of your child

Rom 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

ACCEPTANCE

Should be unconditional but we are human. Love them even when they are bad.

Rom 15:7 Wherefore receive(accept) ye one another, as Christ also received(accepted) us to the glory of God.

APPRECIATION

Give them a sense of significance.

Baptism of Jesus – this is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.

Success breeds success.

We are often big on criticism, light on praise

AFFECTION

Start when they are children.

Love up on them.

If you wait its harder.

When they get older understand their boundaries

Words must lead to deeds.

AVAILABILITY

Kids spell love → T-I-M-E

When you give time it says to them, I am important.

I'm a priority to my parents

ACCOUNTABILITY

Raise children so that they are accountable to God.

Give them limits and boundaries and hold them accountable.

They must take their own responsibility for their actions.

Discipline, Rules, Truth, Limits/boundaries without relationship leads to rebellion.

Besides loneliness, here are some fears that keep us from acquiring wholeness. I have only given you the scriptures concerning these fears. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart should you be burden with any of these.

Fear of Civil & Religious Authority

John 7:13 Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

John 20:19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.

Gal 2:11-13 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them

which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

Fear of the Coming Judgment

Heb 10:26-27 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

I Jn 4:17-18 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Fear of Coming to Christ

Luke 21:25-27 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see

the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

Fear Darkness

Spiritual darkness

John 6:17-19 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

Fear of Death

Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.