



**SERIES: July Series “OFF ROADING”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Friday, July 30, 2021**

**Scripture:** [Genesis 1:26-27/ Psalm 27: 7-8, 10 / James 4:8](#)

**TITLE: Stop Waiting for Community**

Lonely - Many people today feel lonely. At least, that’s what many of you tell us here at Back to the Bible. Loneliness isn’t just a result of the pandemic. It started long before it. It has simply been enhanced by it, even in a digital world full of social media, Facetime, Zoom, and cell phones. We still feel a relational deficit. The question is, why, and how do we overcome it?

Well, let’s go back to the Bible for those answers:

Genesis 1 says, “Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God, he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:26-27, NLT)

When God was creating the Universe and all that inhabited it, He knew it wasn’t complete until He created mankind. So God said, “Let us…” Well, wait. God is One. How can there be an “Us”? That’s a great question, friend. I am glad you asked.

God is one in essence, yet three in persons. You know that this is called the Trinity or Three-in-One. Forever, even before time and space began, God existed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: The triune God, in perfect harmony and relationship forever.

And God being a personal creator, wanted to extend that relationship to soulish creatures: humans. We were made for relationship and community. So when we don’t experience it, we become lonely.

But are we ever truly alone as the people of God? Listen to David’s words in Psalm 27:

“Hear me as I pray, O LORD. Be merciful and answer me! <sup>8</sup>My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.”

<sup>10</sup> Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will hold me close.” (Psalm 27:7-8, 10).

The Lord is always there and is always near us, so when we draw near to God, He will draw near to us (James 4:8a). And thankfully, relationships are not limited to God, but manifested in the body of Christ. The book of Acts shows a picture of life-on-life as the body of Christ.

That's why loneliness, though real, can be mitigated through our relationship with God and each other.

So here's my challenge for you today: Talk to God and talk to each other. We are never truly alone. We don't need to wait for the community. It is at our disposal. So talk to God, and then reach out to the body of Christ. Talk to someone here below. Get to know each other. I love talking with you each day. You guys are family, and I'm thankful for you.

So let's stay connected. We are never truly alone.