



SERIES: LOOKING BACK – MOVING FORWARD

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Friday, September 2, 2022

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-27 / Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

TITLE: You Can't Thrive Alone

C.S. Lewis was a bachelor for nearly 58 years before marrying Joy. He experienced great love, but he also experienced great pain. And Lewis struggled with this. In the 1998 film, *Shadowlands*, Lewis said, “Why love if losing hurts so much? I have no answers anymore. Only the life I have lived. Twice in that life, I’ve been given a choice: as a boy and as a man. The boy chose safety; the man chooses suffering. The pain now is part of the happiness then. That’s the deal.” - C.S. “Jack” Lewis (Anthony Hopkins)

True love means the possibility of great hurt and disappointment, but to live without rejects an essential quality of mankind. That essential quality is relationship. We are intrinsically made for community and connecting.

Don't believe me? Listen to this:

Genesis 1:26-27 (NIRV) says,

Then God said, “Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. He created them as male and female.

One of the greatest mysteries of God is His trinitarian nature. Well, what does that mean? God is One. There is not a bunch of gods - just God. One in essence, yet eternally triune, or Three-in-One: One God, yet three in persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

For before time began, God existed in a perfect, perpetual relationship with Himself. Theologians call this “The Dance of God”. It’s a beautiful picture of the intimacy of the relationship. And then God created Adam and Eve - Mankind made in the image of the relational God.

This is why Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT) says,

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be

warm alone? 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.

We can live alone, but we can't thrive alone. That's why my challenge for you is to connect. We were made to connect. We were made for the community. So I want you to connect in two ways. First, connect with a friend, a family member, or someone who needs a touch from you. Let them know you are there and you care. Text, call, e-mail, or whatever will benefit them most. Then be available for them.

But then, because we want to foster a real community here at Back to the Bible, introduce yourself below. Tell us who you are. Tell us about yourself. And then interact with each other. I know I will.

When we lean into God's design for us, we not only bring God glory, but we thrive.

So let's connect and go win the day!