

LIFE TOGETHER IS BETTER
ECCLESIASTES 4
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Main Idea: "Tis better to love your neighbor, and work for the good of the other."

#1 HATING YOUR NEIGHBOR

As we look at life under the sun, we see oppression and pain.

"There is no greater injustice than to wring your profits from the sweat of another man's brow." Abraham Lincoln

Is it better to have never lived?
Consider Job

Be honest to God with your pain.

Oppression happens when we use people as a means to an end.
What drives this evil? _____

Victor Hugo poem Envy and Avarice.
Envy's wish:

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago*:

Both envy and laziness are self-serving and self-destructive

A better way, verse 6: _____

"Life in God's world is gift not gain" -David Gibson, in *Living Life Backward*

#2 LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

People are more important than things.

God calls us to love our neighbor

Leviticus 19:18

I John 4:16

John 13:35

Matthew 22:37-40

Matthew 7:12

The Triune God is a Giver who created us in his image for relationships.

PareRescuers Motto: _____

Is money the answer or problem?

Use money to _____.

Jesus' thoughts on money: Luke 16:9

Chapter 4 begins with a bad king, ends with a good king, but both are forgotten.

"Over time, human leaders tend to lose their ability to learn in reverse proportion to the growth of their success and power." Knut Martin Heim

Makes us long for the Kingdom that never ends

Our King:

"though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

What God has given us to enjoy are _____.

Questions for Discussion:

1. In what ways have you experienced oppression?
2. How have you processed that hurt with God?
3. Where does this abuse of power derive from?
4. How have you sought to avoid the poles of crazy busy and foolishly lazy?
5. Share your thoughts regarding the purpose of money?
6. Consider memorizing one of the verses regarding how we treat our neighbor.
7. Reflect on the seductive lure of power, and pray for grace to walk in love.
8. Who has God given you to enjoy, love, and serve?