



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY





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Better Together

Ecclesiastes 4:7-16



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7 Again, I saw vanity under the sun: 8 one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure? This also is vanity and an unhappy business. 9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. 13 Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. 14 For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. 15 I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. 16 There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.



Better Together

Ecclesiastes 4:7-16

I. Life is too Heavy to Carry Alone (4:7-8)

II. The Strength of Shared Life (4:9-12)

III. The Loneliness of Applause (4:13-16)



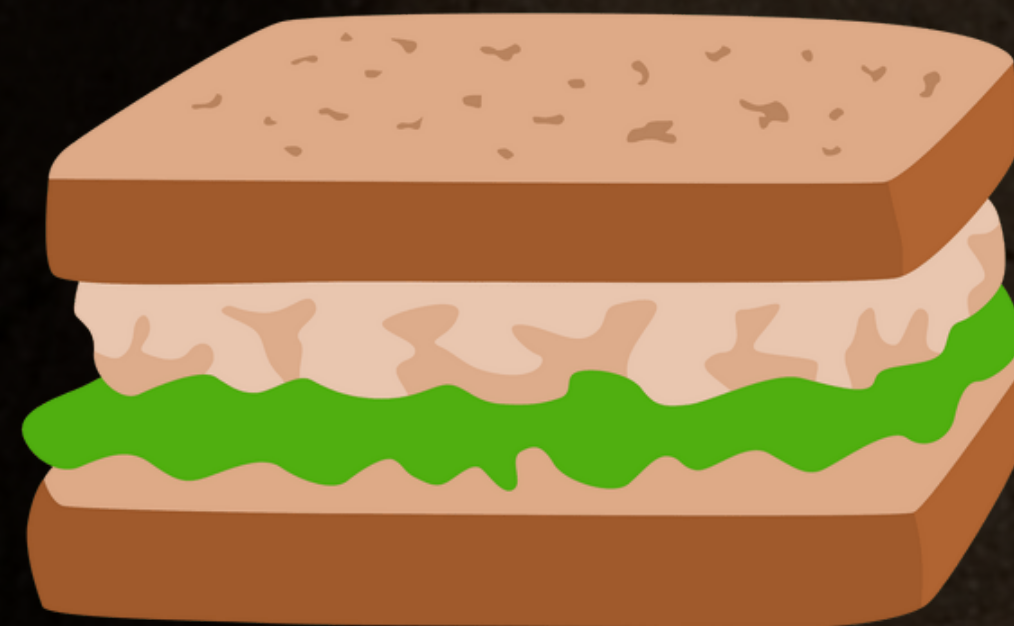
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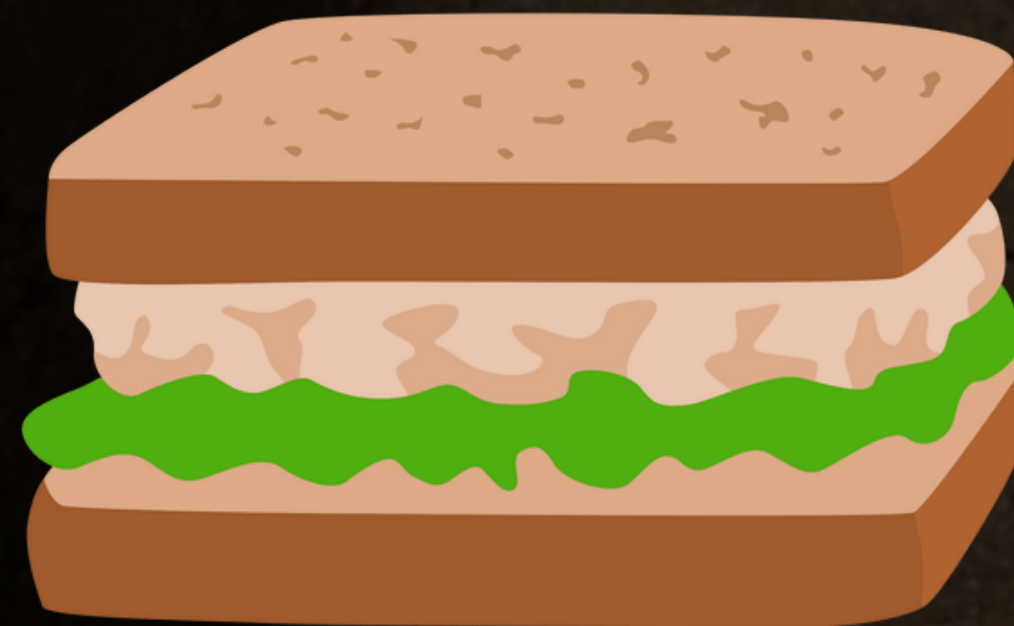




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Ecclesiastes 4:7-16

- Bread** I. (4:7-8) **Isolated self-sufficiency —> vanity**
- Meat** II. (4:9-12) **The Strength of Shared Life**
- Bread** III. (4:13-16) **Isolated admiration —> vanity**





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The Big Idea

The demands of your life are greater than your ability to meet them by yourself.



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*If you protect yourself from needing anyone,
you will also protect yourself from meaning.*



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Ecclesiastes 4:7-16

I. Life is too Heavy to Carry Alone (4:7-8)

APPLICATION:

God does not call His people to self-sufficiency, but to shared life.



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I. Life is too Heavy to Carry Alone (4:7-8)

APPLICATION:

So what does God require of us today?

Not simply that we work less—but that we refuse to live alone.

- God calls us to receive help, not just offer it.
- To acknowledge limits, not deny them.
- To stop pretending we were designed to carry life by ourselves.

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Ecclesiastes 4:7-16

I. Life is too Heavy to Carry Alone (4:7-8)

APPLICATION:

Where does isolated toil show up today?

- **In your work:** Carrying pressure silently. Never asking for help. Believing competence means independence.
- **In your marriage or family:** Being physically present but emotionally alone.
- Not letting anyone see the weight you're carrying.
- **In ministry or leadership:** Serving faithfully—but never being shepherded.
- Pouring out without being known.
- **In the church:** Attending regularly, surrounded by people, yet deeply unseen.



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Ecclesiastes 4:7-16

I. Life is too Heavy to Carry Alone (4:7-8)

APPLICATION:

What burden are you carrying alone that God never intended you to carry by yourself?

God calls you out of isolation not to expose you, but to protect you. Not to shame you—but to sustain you.



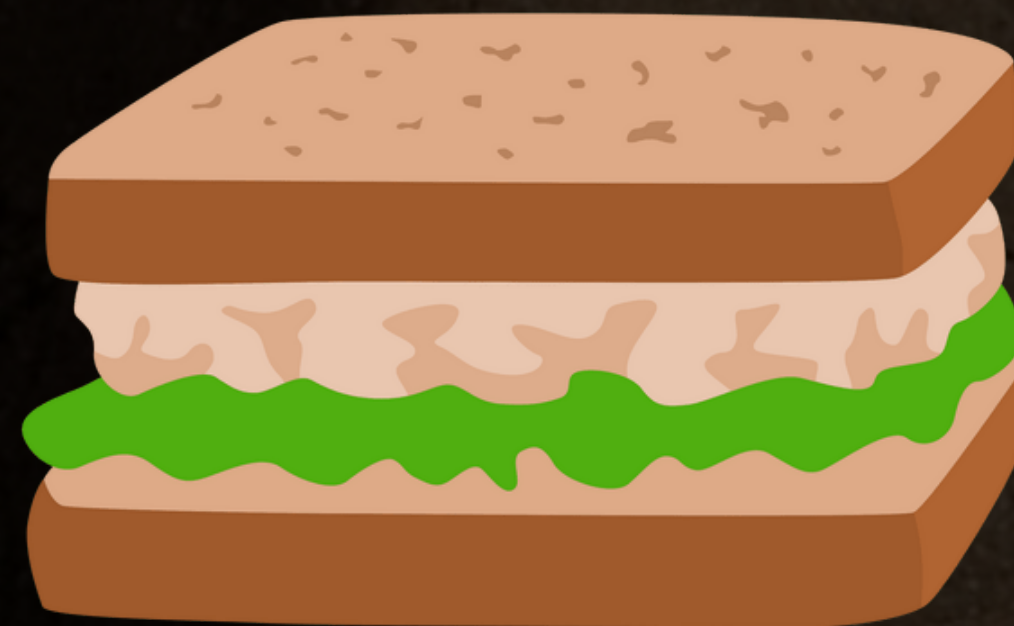
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III. **The Loneliness of Applause** (4:13-16)

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Text Flow

- v. 13 – A reversal: a poor but wise youth replaces a foolish king
- vv. 14–15 – The masses shift their loyalty quickly
- v. 16 – Popularity explodes... then evaporates

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To be loved and not known is superficial—celebrity-type love.
To be known and not loved is our greatest fear.
But to be fully known and yet fully loved... that is heaven.



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II. The Strength of Shared Life (4:9-12)

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God designed us to endure life not through self-sufficiency or public approval, but through committed, shared life.



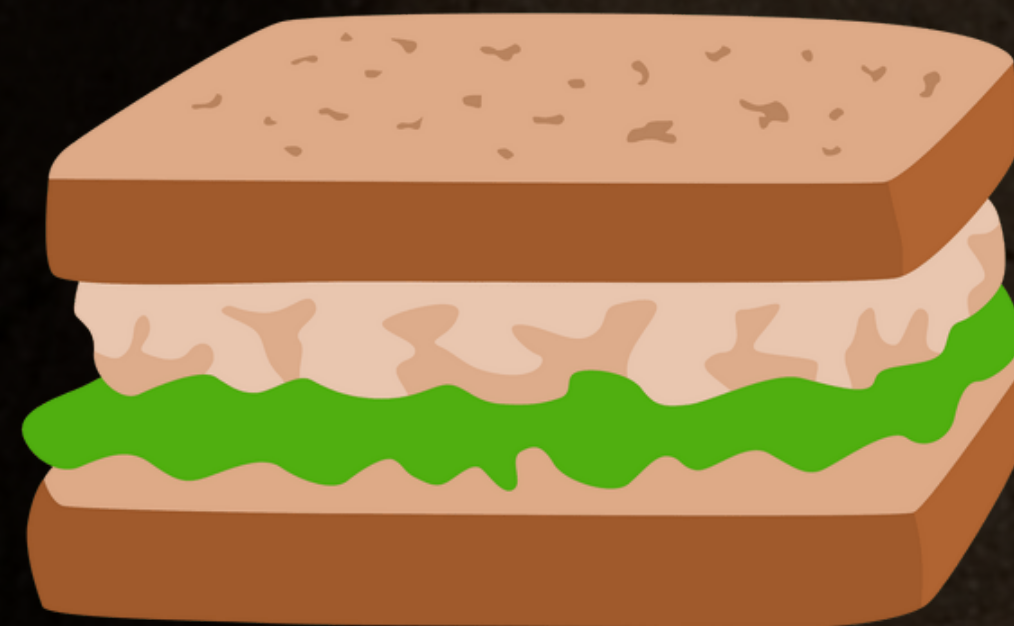
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- 1. Better Return – “*Two are better than one*” (v. 9)**
- 2. Better Recovery – “*If they fall...*” (v. 10)**
- 3. Better Resilience – “*If two lie together...*” (v. 11)**
- 4. Better Defense – “*A threefold cord...*” (v. 12)**



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We resist this because:

- **Shared life costs us control**
- **It exposes weakness**
- **It requires time and vulnerability**



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