Genesis 2:18 "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone."

Psalm 133 "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore."

God's heart has always been a *relational* one. He has demonstrated this as the one God in three persons.

Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Satan comes against God by coming against <u>you</u>. Satan's purpose is to kill, steal, and destroy, and he realizes God's heart for unity; therefore, he destroys the saints by isolating them. King Solomon said: "Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment." (Proverbs 18:1)

God said it was not good for man to be alone; therefore, Satan wants you alone!

- He wants you alone in a marriage,
- He wants you alone in your family,
- He wants you alone in ministry,
- And he wants you alone in the Church, the Body of Christ.

SATAN WANTS YOU ALONE

Being alone/isolated is contrary to God the Father's design. Remember, we are made in His image, the triune God, therefore we were made to be with each other. <u>Loneliness is one of the most destructive</u>, traumatic, forces affecting the body of Christ today. <u>Loneliness causes you to retract and many times occupy your time with worthless things</u>.

To be sure, we need to distinguish the difference between <u>loneliness</u> and <u>solitude</u>. Solitude is good and it brings:

- Refreshment
- Rest
- Reflection
- Enlightenment
- Renewal

Loneliness: No one *knows* or *cares* about you. Loneliness will inevitably lead to hopelessness, and hopelessness is death!

Some destructive products of loneliness:

- Lost in social media
- Lost in worthless thought
- Lost in pornography
- Tragically can lead to suicide

WHAT THEN IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS THIS TRAUMATIC AFFECT ON THE BODY?

- We desperately need the heart of the Father on the matter.
- The "we four and no more" attitude has got to change.
- I'm not advocating, becoming everyone's best friend but at the bear minimum be your brother's keeper.

In his infamous statement Cain responded to the Lord's question with "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). The answer to the Lord's question is an emphatic <u>YES!</u>

The Bible tells us that we have the mind of Christ, which should lead us to His heart and His heart is for unity and inclusion.

- You have purpose.
- You matter.
- You are redeemable.
- God has a plan for your life.
- God wants to use us as an instigator, a voice to the lonely.

One of the great paradoxes of relationships:

- 1. They are rewarding.
- 2. They are hurtful.
- Many relationships cause pain, BUT relationships bring healing.
- We need to be involved with each other's story.
- Beware of idealism.

John 17:11 "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."