

# Being Present

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 6/25/2017



## Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

*There is a profound difference between being physically present & being emotionally, intellectually & spiritually engaged with others. A troubling fact today is that many are increasingly disassociating themselves from one another. The “tools” used to facilitate this disconnect are varied—devices, hobbies, work, etc. Regardless of the method, this trend is harmful to individuals & hinders the formation of community.*

*Are you unhappy with your present context & hoping for circumstances to change? Perhaps you feel as if you do not fit in or cannot make a difference in your current setting? Nevertheless, God wants you to be present—invested & involved relationally with those around you. His will is that you endeavor to thrive wherever you are sent.*

*Being present is about availability. It manifests from an attitude that says, “Here I am Lord; Your will be done.” Being present requires that you be an active listener, first to God & then to those he has placed in your life. By learning to love your neighbors, you learn to more wholly & deeply love God.*

*Are you guilty of being physically present but relationally distant from those God has brought in to your life? Are you afraid of what relationships might cost or what activity God may ask you to carry out on His behalf? Have you considered the consequence of moving through life in isolation, disconnected from the people & activities through which God wants to mature & bless you?*

*Prayerfully ask the Lord to reveal the areas of your life where you have been less than fully present. Thank Him for His unfailing presence & care for you, even when you stray from Him. Ask God to help you be more invested & involved wherever He leads.*

## I. Disconnected & Divided

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## II. Encouraging The Exiles

Jeremiah 29:1-7

v. 1-3

Greeting The Remnant

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v. 4-7

Getting Involved

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## III. Practicing Presence

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