

**Choices – Part 6**  
**Choose to Connect (CC)**

**Vision** - The heart of Life Connections Ministries (LCM) is to build people up in their faith, in God, in order for them to connect, not only to Him, but also to their family and friends. We also have a passion to reach a dark and hurting world with the life-transforming power of God's word.

**Connections are like small habits that can have huge impacts.**

**Point 1 – We were created out of connection**

**Genesis 1:26 (AMP)**

Then God said, "Let **Us** (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) make **man** in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness [not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness]; ...

- We were created out of a community – Yes God is 1 BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE IS 3

**Point 2 – We operate better out of being connected**

- We were created out of connection to be connected

**Genesis 2:18 (AMP)**

Now the LORD God said, "It is **not** good (beneficial) for the **man to be alone**; I will make him a helper [one who balances him—a counterpart who is] suitable *and* complementary for him."

- Think about this God is saying something is NOT good after all the things that He said is good.
  - When this statement is made, the environment is one of perfection.
    - Sin had not entered
    - Man (Adam) has a perfection connection with God
      - Yet God said it was not good for man to be alone
        - Because Adam didn't have someone like him – while he was created in the image of God, he was not God
- **Man to be alone** – Man here is the Hebrew word "mankind" – know in context He was looking at Adam, but please understand it's not just "men" but also "women" it's not good to be alone
  - **Again, God says this in a perfect environment!**

**Point 3 – When we are isolated we are in danger**

**1 Peter 5:8 (AMP)**

Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be **alert** *and* cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring **lion** [fiercely hungry], **seeking** someone to devour.

**Alert** – give strict attention to something, be cautious,

**Seeking** – This is the same word that is used when we are called to SEEK God (to seek in order to find something)

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (AMP)

Two are better than one because they have a more satisfying return for their labor; 10 for if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and does not have another to lift him up. 11 Again, if two lie down together, then they keep warm; but how can one be warm *alone*? 12 And though one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three *strands* is not quickly broken.

### Proverbs 27:17 (AMP)

As iron sharpens iron, so **one man sharpens** [and influences] another [through discussion].

- (MBC) The wise are not lone rangers.
  - Iron was used to sharpen the edge of other iron instruments, making them more effective.
    - In the same way, one man can sharpen another.
      - **Productive interaction with others can make people more effective and wise, particularly when it includes constructive criticism and mutual encouragement toward righteousness**
- **One man** – Each other, One Another, Champion, Each Man
- **Sharpens** – to grow, to grow sharp

### **Point 4 – Connection requires action**

### Mark 9:35 (AMP)

Sitting down [to teach], He called the twelve [disciples] and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all [in importance] and a **servant** of all.”

### Philippians 2:7 (AMP)

but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a **bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man].

### Acts 2:42-47 (AMP)

- **Understand this is not a perfect church – there isn't, other than in Him the church is**

<sup>42</sup> They were continually *and* faithfully devoting themselves to the instruction of the apostles, and to fellowship, to <sup>[a]</sup>eating meals together and to prayers. <sup>43</sup> A sense of awe was felt by <sup>[b]</sup>everyone, and many wonders and signs (attesting miracles) were taking place through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> And all those who had believed [in Jesus as Savior] <sup>[c]</sup>were together and had all things in common [considering their possessions to belong to the group as a whole]. <sup>45</sup> And they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing the proceeds with all [the other believers], as anyone had need. <sup>46</sup> Day after day they met in the temple [area] continuing with one mind, and breaking bread in various private homes. They were eating their meals together with joy and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God *continually*, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved.

### Why Connect

- Connections help us with the “One another’s”
  - Love one another
  - Forgive one another
  - Admonish one another
  - Encourage one another
- Connections help us gain a greater understanding of God
- Connections help us to know and be known
  - Think about why certain social media platforms exist. They exist so people know what’s going on with you.
- Small connections have big impacts
  - You can get a lot out of Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, but some of the greatest impacts on our lives can come over a cup of coffee!

### Connections help us to serve one another

#### Mark 9:35 (AMP)

Sitting down [to teach], He called the twelve [disciples] and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all [in importance] and a **servant** of all.”

- **Servant** - One who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister
  - **Servant** - An attendant, ready to do whatever is asked – A WAITER
- **"Ministry" is from the Greek word diakoneo, meaning "to serve"**
  - Or “douleuo”, meaning "to serve as a slave."

- Christians are to minister (serve) others out of their devotion, **out of a choose to follow Jesus – Believers and Non-Believers**
- The ministry in our day has taken on more of a vocational meaning as we call pastors "ministers" to full-time service. Pastors do spend their lives in the ministry, they do minister to others, and they can rightly be designated as ministers,
- Pastors are not the only ones who are to be involved in ministry.
  - **From the early New Testament** to the churches of our day, each Christian should be in the ministry of helping others (see [Romans 12:3-8](#), [10-13](#); [2 Timothy 2:24-26](#)).

### **John 13:1-17 (AMP)**

#### **The Lord's Supper**

<sup>13</sup> Now before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that His hour had come [and it was time] for Him to leave this world *and* return to the Father. Having [greatly] loved His own who were in the world, He loved them [and continuously loves them with His perfect love] to the end (eternally). <sup>2</sup> It was during supper, when the devil had already put [the thought of] betraying Jesus into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, <sup>3</sup> that Jesus, knowing that the Father had put everything into His hands, and that He had come from God and was [now] returning to God, <sup>4</sup> got up from supper, took off His [outer] robe, and taking a [servant's] towel, He tied it around His waist.

#### **Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

<sup>5</sup> Then He poured water into the basin and began washing the disciples' feet and wiping them with the towel which was tied around His waist. <sup>6</sup> When He came to Simon Peter, he said to Him, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied to him, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but you will [fully] understand it later." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to Him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me [we can have nothing to do with each other]." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, [in that case, wash] not only my feet, but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Anyone who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, and is completely clean. And you [My disciples] are clean, but not all *of you*." <sup>11</sup> For He knew who was going to betray Him; for that reason He said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup> So when He had washed their feet and put on His [outer] robe and reclined *at the table* again, He said to them, "**Do you understand what I have done for you?**" <sup>13</sup> You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right in doing so, for *that is who* I am. <sup>14</sup> **So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet as well.** <sup>15</sup> **For I gave you [this as] an example, so that you should do [in turn] as I did to you.** <sup>16</sup> I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, you are blessed [happy and favored by God] if you put them into practice [and faithfully do them].

### **Mark 2:13-17 (AMP)**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went out again along the [Galilean] seashore; and all the people were coming to Him, and He was teaching them. <sup>14</sup> As He was passing by, He saw Levi (Matthew) the son of Alphaeus sitting in the <sup>a</sup>tax collector's booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me [as My disciple, accepting Me as your Master and Teacher and walking the same path of life that I

walk].” And he got up and followed Him [becoming His disciple, believing and trusting in Him and following His example]. <sup>15</sup> And it happened that Jesus was <sup>[b]</sup>reclining *at the table* in Levi’s house, and many tax collectors and sinners [including non-observant Jews] were eating with Him and His disciples; for there were many of them and they were <sup>[c]</sup>following Him. <sup>16</sup> When the scribes [belonging to the sect] of the <sup>[d]</sup>Pharisees saw that Jesus was eating with the sinners [including non-observant Jews] and tax collectors, they asked His disciples, “**Why does He eat and drink with <sup>[e]</sup>tax collectors and sinners?**” <sup>17</sup> When Jesus heard this, He said to them, “Those who are healthy have no need of a physician, but [only] those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners [who recognize their sin and humbly seek forgiveness].”

#### **James 4:4 (NASB Strong's)**

**4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

#### **1 John 2:15 (AMP)**

**15** Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.

#### **John 8:7-11 (NASB Strong's)**

**7** But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” **8** Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. **9** When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. **10** Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” **11** She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”]

(MBC) They would never have broken bread with individuals who failed to keep the law and their traditions. They questioned, if Jesus was indeed a holy man, why would he be eating with such people? They interrogated the disciples, but when Jesus learned of the discussion, He responded with a proverb that it is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. Jesus was not interested in dealing with people like these scribes who considered themselves righteous, not sinners in need of repentance (cf. Mk 1:15). Jesus wanted to reach those who acknowledged their sinfulness and were willing to turn from it.