

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-6

Topic: The Importance of Building Relationships With New People

INTRODUCTION: In today's world one of the most important _____ that people have is the feeling of the _____ to belong to some group or society.

I. GOD CREATED THE NEED TO BELONG:

A. First Need:

1. The first man that God _____ was perfectly formed and placed in an ideal environment with every one of his _____ met as far as comfort, protection and nourishment. Gen. 2:7,8,15
2. Everything that God had created up until that point He called _____, indeed not just _____ but _____. Gen. 1:31
3. However, after the creation of the man, God revealed something that was not _____ in this creation and that was it was not good for man to be _____. Gen. 2:18, 21-24

B. Needing People:

1. God ordained that people be born into a _____ where they would have a relationship with mother and _____ and siblings. Gen. 4:1,2
2. Some animals abandon their young and leave them to fend for themselves, and the sea _____ lay their _____ in the sand and abandon them where they are often eaten by wild animals but God planned for people to be _____ into a family with loving relationships to nourish them.

II. THE LACK OF STABLE RELATIONSHIPS:

A. Broken By Sin:

1. When sin entered the world by the disobedience of Adam and Eve it first _____ their relationship with God, which led to many evil _____ coming out of the heart of mankind. Gen. 4:8
2. The tragic results of sin has led to many _____ relationships – broken marriages, broken families, broken friendships, etc. all of which leave people with a _____ for relationship elsewhere.

B. Poor Substitutes:

1. The many people who have suffered emotionally and physically because of _____ relationships often end up looking in the _____ places for the missing relationships in their lives. Gen. 26:34,35
2. For young people, especially young men, the broken relationship of the family is _____ with the relationship of a gang and friends who often end up in some kind of _____. Mk. 15:7
3. People go to night _____, wild parties and get involved in sinful sexual _____ trying to replace the emptiness of what they have not found in family or relatives.

C. Loners:

1. Another result of unstable and _____ relationships is the effect it has on another kind of people who instead of _____ to other kinds of relationships, become isolated and alone.
2. Sadly, these people often end up being bullied and ostracized by other _____, which drives them even further into isolation and _____ relationships.

4. Some of these people actually become hermits who live in the wilderness _____ from society while others just bury themselves in some form of _____ such as video games, work, TV, etc.

III. THE CHURCH & RELATIONSHIPS:

A. New Converts:

1. When people make the _____ to abandon their life of sin to follow Jesus, it is the best choice that they have ever made, but it will mean many _____ in their lives, including relationships.
2. When one lives in the world of sin, the relationships that one has are mostly with _____ unsaved people who are involved in the same _____ lifestyle and behavior.
3. Once one is born again, there is a change of direction and behavior as a _____ lifestyle begins to replace the old _____ one, which brings one into _____ with unsaved friends and family. I Pt. 4: 3,4
4. Unfortunately, the new born child of God finds himself/herself losing the _____ that they had for so long as they were in the _____ of sin. 2 Cor. 6:14-17
5. Just as a new born baby's primary need is the relationship and _____ of the mother and family, so also is the spiritual need of a new born baby in _____ - relationship and care of a spiritual family.

B. New Relationships:

1. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ must be ready and willing to _____ new relationships with the new born child of God as quickly as possible to fill the _____ that is being created by losing many of the former friends and in some cases even family members. Mk. 10:29,30
2. There are several ways to _____ relationships with new people:
 - a. Through Home Bible Studies – a relationship is _____ between teacher and student(s)
 - b. Through Home Friendship Groups – a relationship is _____ in a smaller circle of believers.
 - c. Through intentional activities – arranged appointments for _____ together, through visits to their home and vice-versa for fellowship.
 - d. Sitting with them in _____ services.
 - e. Other activities – day trips, etc.
3. It may mean stepping out of our comfort _____ to help and build relationships with new converts but statistics have shown that if the relationships are not developed most likely they will not _____ in the church, which is both sad and tragic. Mt. 18:6

CONCLUSION: The desire for relationships is a basic _____ of humanity and more than any place on earth, the church should be a _____ where wholesome and godly relationships can be built to help people develop and _____ in their walk with Jesus Christ.