



246 ECCLESIASTES

Lesson 3 Importance of Relationships

Read Ecclesiastes 5:4-12

I. We Are Too Focused on Ourselves (verses 4-8)

A. We do things to be noticed and to be better than others

Question: How is the person who is self-centered (folding his arms) described in verse 5?

B. Being self-centered leads to loneliness (without a companion)

*Read verse 8 about how lonely and bitter this person is.

*The people who are “too cool for school” will one day find themselves alone with no one loving them. We need others in our life.

II. Relationships Are Important (verses 9-12)

A. 2 benefits for having good, godly friends

1. lift each other up
2. you are stronger together (read verse 12)

Question: How are several Christian friends stronger than a single, loner Christian?

Question: Today, what are some things that hinder us from having close friendships?

- busyness
- cell phones, texting
- tv & internet

Question: Do you see the benefit of having close friendships instead of being by yourself with the extent of your friendships being some people you can text?

*Talk about Amish culture and how they view close relationships

B. Are we someone that others can call a friend?

1. other people need us, just like we need them (I Peter 5:8-9, Hebrews 10:24-25)
2. us being friends to other is how people will know we are Christians

Take it Home: Who is God laying on your heart to be a friend to this week?

Take it Home: Take time this week to get out of the house and hang out with a friend!

Think about this quote: *“Do you feel like there is a lack of support from other. Maybe it is because you aren’t engaged in the lives of others. There is an old aphorism that says: ‘I went out to look for a friend and they were nowhere. I went out to be a friend and they were everywhere.’”*

“A cord of three strands is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12