
4. We grow lonelier by trusting others to fill us.

Galatians 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man lays a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD is safe.

John 2:23 Now when Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; ²⁴ but Jesus did not trust himself to them, ²⁵ because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man.

5. "Of course we're homesick!"

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received what was promised, but having seen it and greeted it from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

¹⁴ *For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.*

¹⁵ *If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.*

¹⁶ *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.*

Key: Pg 1: first. given. Pg 2: needs. demands. Pg 3: trust. Pg 4: Homesick

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The Surprising Virtue of Loneliness

Dark Clouds, Silver Linings—pt 1

Matthew 22:37-40; October 5, 2014

1. God as "first thing pleasure."

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
³⁸ *This is the first and greatest commandment.*

³⁹ *And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*

⁴⁰ *All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

Your heart was designed for grace-love. Nothing else will do.

2. From love received to love given.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

Paradox of the love tank.

3. Needs vs. desires.

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters--yes, even his own life--he cannot be my disciple.

*Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴
"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

We foolishly

Take 2nd thing desires, and

make them 1st thing desires,

Turn them into 1st thing NEEDS.

Needs morph into DEMANDS.

Loneliness: a case study

1 Kings 11:3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

Ecclesiastes 2:8 "I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces; I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, man's delight."

Eccl. 7:26 "I found more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters; he who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her."

*Eccl. 7:27 Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher (Solomon), adding one thing to another to find the sum, ²⁸ which my mind has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, **but a woman among all these I have not found.***

Eccl. 7:29 Behold, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many devices.
