

Two Are Better Than One

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[Eccl 4:7-12](#) Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- I. To spend life alone is not the best way.
 - A. We are not talking here about those who are widowed or those who are not able to have children but about those who deliberately chose to be alone.
 - 1. Not marry
 - 2. Not have children
 - B. You have nothing to work for.

[“For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good?” \(v. 8\)](#)

- C. Life is meaningless when all it’s labor and sacrifice is simply for self.
- D. There is no satisfaction in riches that you only desire so you can hoard them to yourself.
 - 1. There is no satisfaction in achievements when there is no one that it honors but yourself.
- E. Life has no meaning when you cannot give something to someone else.

[“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” \(Acts 20:35\)](#)

- F. A life lived alone is vanity and sore travail.
 - 1. The meaning here is “a calamitous affair.”
 - 2. It is a calamity to be alone and never have anyone who depends upon you.
 - 3. It is a calamity to be alone and never have anyone you can depend upon.
 - 4. A person who is alone is a sad thing we have all seen.

[Gen 2:18](#) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; ...

- II. Two are better than one.
 - A. While a very selfish person may contend that he is happier alone he is in opposition to God with such thinking – because two ARE BETTER than one.
 - B. Some people isolate themselves alone because they have been hurt by someone.
 - 1. We may understand and sympathize with someone in this, but it is simply selfish and ungodly behavior to be that way.
 - C. Whatever reasons you might give for maintaining your solitude and isolation it is contrary to the Word of God and to God’s will.
- III. Reasons why two are better than one:
 - A. Because they have a good reward for their labor.
 - 1. This means they have a precious (or best) benefit.

- B. There is more pleasure and satisfaction from the labor because it is for the benefit of someone besides your self whom you love.
- C. It makes the labor more bearable – it is a motivation when you would otherwise despair. (“Buy the baby a new pair of shoes.”)
- D. You have help in trouble.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. (v. 10)

- 1. WHEN you fall ...not IF you fall; it is going to happen to you sooner or later.
- 2. When you are sick or hurt it is a great comfort to have someone to help.
- E. “Woe” unto him that is alone when he falls.
 - 1. There are times when you fall and cannot get up by yourself. What happens then?
- F. When it is cold you can keep each other warm.
 - 1. When you are both alone together and all the world is against you then there is still comfort.
 - 2. It is much easier to face rejection from everyone else if you have someone who is always with you.
- G. When an enemy comes there is more strength to withstand when there is someone with you and on your side.
 - 1. The threefold cord speaks of family.

IV. The lesson is that we NEED others.

- A. God made us that way.
- B. God designed the creation so that all things work together – not a bunch of solitary “lone wolves” doing their own thing.
- C. A selfish person will be a lonely person and if you see a lonely person who is alone because they want to be, you can be pretty sure that they have been a selfish person.