

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Loneliness

"The deepest need of man is the need to overcome his separateness, to leave the prison of aloneness." – Erich Fromm

"Once you have lived with another, it is a great torture to have to live alone." – Carson McCullers

"We are all so much together, but we are all dying of loneliness." – Albert Schweitzer

"Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." – unknown

"Loneliness does not come from having no people around you, but from being unable to communicate the things that seem important to you." – Carl Jung

Isn't it ironic? We live in a world of 7.5 billion people. Depending on where you live, say in a bigger city, you may actually come into contact with as many as 150 people daily. In small towns the number would obviously be less. Even so, for those who choose to live among people, even though they surround us many still suffer with loneliness. Even in parts of China and India, where it is crowded, with pushing and shoving, one can still be lonely.

Society continues to push for more privacy. You can do much of your shopping from home. You can even do most of your U.S. mail from home. The Internet has made it possible for us to do what we need with very little interaction with others.

Even in the church, we often find cliques. And people tend to socialize with the same people Sunday after Sunday, while avoiding contact with others. Sometimes we find Christians who complain of loneliness. They have isolated themselves from other brethren. They reason that if someone really wanted to talk with them, they know where to find them. But they refuse to reach out to others.

The word *lonely* is found only once in Scripture in the NKJV. It is used in Lamentations 1:1 where the prophet speaks of how the city once rang out with the bustle of every travel and business, but now sits quiet.

Now it is true that sometimes calamity strikes and we lose those close to us. That is a loneliness that hurts deeply. But we must move past it and not allow it to devour us.

Loneliness in many cases is a choice. We could choose to live alone and away from people. It becomes a self-imposed loneliness. Such can be cured if we would reach out to others. Much of this has to do with a state of mind. The devil can certainly use this to make us bitter and depressed. Remember, even God said it is not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18).