

## KEY THOUGHTS

- Isolation, being apart from others, has very negative results. It's why "solitary confinement" is considered such a negative aspect of incarceration.
- Regardless of where we are in our journey with Christ, and regardless of whether we're introverted or extraverted, the need for meaningful relationships is universal.
- In the Creation, everything God made in each of the 6 days was evaluated by Himself as being "good". And on the last day, God looked and saw that "it was very good." But then we see, among all this ideal Creation, the first instance of something that was NOT good. It was the alone-ness of man in Genesis 2:18.
- While ONE of the solutions for this alone-ness was the creation of relationship between a man and his wife, this is certainly not the only solution. By design, we NEED relationships with others for a variety of reasons:
  - Give courage to each other – 1 Thess. 5:11  
Improve each other – Proverbs 27:17
  - Care for each other – 1 Corinthians 1:3-5
  - Accomplish more with each other – 1 Corinthians 12:27
  - Learn from each other – Colossians 3:16
- These will be unpacked in the following weeks, but it's clear from beginning of Scripture to the end, we are made for one another. The New Testament is intensely relational.

## SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 1:31 and 2:18
- 1 Thess. 5:11
- Proverbs 27:17
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-5
- 1 Corinthians 12:27
- Colossians 3:16
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- John 13:35

## PRACTICAL & REFLECT

Some things I need to do:

- Make myself get together with others.  
Hebrews 10:24-25 is very intentional – I am likely to drift AWAY FROM meaningful relationships
- Make my current "get togethers" more purposeful  
John 13:35 – if people are to distinguish us as followers of Jesus because of our relationships, than those relationships much be distinctive
- Stop measuring just by what I get out of it  
A large part of why together is so important is what you bring to the table, not what you take away from it.