

Walking the Path of Pain

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.
Psalms 51:17

Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain. But those who let distress drive them away from God are full of regrets, end up on a deathbed of regrets.
2 Corinthians 7:10

Last week we looked at PAIN:

- Something we feel -- we were created to feel
- Something good and bad -- pain is an indicator
- Something universal -- we all feel; its ok
- Something is broken --

Spiritual Pain

“Pain of Aloneness”

Not talking about loneliness. We have all experienced.
Loneliness is a negative and overwhelming emotional experience resulting from a sense of isolation (physical / social / emotional)

Example. Kentucky.

Also, not saying that being alone MUST be painful or that it's odd to want some solitude (example: Jesus). Solitude can be refreshing. In fact, we will see later on in this series that solitude is necessary for dealing with our pain.

Not everyone alone is lonely

What is this PAIN OF ALONENESS

Genesis 2:7, 15, 18

GOD formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive--a living soul!

GOD took the Man and set him down in the Garden of Eden to work the ground and keep it in order.

GOD said, "It's not good for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."

It is NOT GOOD for man to be alone.

First, need to understand the context
(kee tobe)—GOOD (lo tobe)—NOT GOOD

Gen 1:4 God saw that the light was **good** (kee tobe), and he separated the light from the darkness.

Gen 1:10 God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was **good**.

Gen 1:12 The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was **good**.

Gen 1:18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was **good**.

Gen 1:21 So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was **good**.

Gen 1:25 God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was **good**.

Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was **very good** (mehod tobe). And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 2.18

GOD said, "It's not good (lo tobe) for the Man to be alone; I'll make him a helper, a companion."

This is intentional. All things were good. In fact, in its totality everything was very good. But one thing was not good. It was not good for man to be alone.

Another context issue:

So is this passage saying: Without a partner humans are incomplete?
Corollary to this: Singles will never feel complete or fulfilled.
Unfortunately, this has been a common interpretation of this passage. But it is not what it is saying.

This is NOT saying: without a wife (husband) a man (woman) is less than complete...

We have to take a step back and look at the bigger picture...

God has created all this good stuff
He sees one human being in all this vast world
Whom he has created for intimate relationship
And God sees something lacking
His own kind to have such a relationship

So God brings all the animals around to be named...
See anyone you like?

So God creates a woman, who will with man reproduce to fill the earth with more human life which will allow intimate relationships.

So, the context is not, poor man he needs a wife. But poor human being, he needs others with whom he can connect intimately.

There's something even bigger going on here...

"It's not good for man to be alone" is said by God when?
Before the Fall. Before sin entered the world. So, how can we describe God and Adam's relationship at this moment?
Fantastic...

Truth: despite the fact that Adam had a perfect (intimate) relationship with God as designed by God, God acknowledge that still something was lacking – man was created with the need to have intimate relationship with both God and others.

Significance -- Christians may say: the pain of human relationships which you carry will be wiped away as you find your relationship with God.
Assumption is: you have been created only for relationship w God
Assumption is: make you relationship with God right and everything else will be ok.

Remind you now where we are...
Look at my inner pain.
Asking: where's this pain coming from?
Pain of Aloneness.

We have discovered that despite having a perfect relationship with God (Adam before the Fall), something was lacking, something was not right, something was not good... we were alone.

Look at this another way, take another step further...

NOT GOOD: Man and God ok, but no others.

VERY GOOD: Man and God and Others in intimate relationship

What then happened... talked 2 weeks ago, about breaking of relationships... trust was broken...

Did we go back to NOT GOOD?

EVEN LESS GOOD: Man and God, disconnect. Man and others, disconnect.

So man is not just back to being alone with God. He is alone, alone.

Then it gets worse.

EVEN WORSE.

Relationally, man damages man.

No longer neutral. We hurt each other. We feel the pain, alone.

PAIN OF ALONENESS

Having been designed and created for intimate relationship with both God and Others, I yearn for such a relationship, I feel the frustration of being unable to experience such a relationship and I (with others) act out to hurt and to carry hurt through the relationships I do have.

Romans 8:21-23

the entire creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.