



I. WHY I NEED CONNECTION WITH OTHERS

"It is not good for the man to be alone." Genesis 2:18

"Connecting is life. Loneliness is the ultimate horror. In connecting with God, we gain life. In connecting with others, we nourish and experience that life as we freely share it. Rugged individualism, proud independence, and chosen isolation violate the nature of our existence as much as trying to breathe under water."

-Dr. Larry Crabb, Connecting, 53.

The type of connection I need is: _____

Fellowship is:

To be loved in a <u>sacrificial</u> and <u>unconditional</u> way by another person.

The essence of fellowship is: _____ !

"For God so <u>loved the world</u> that <u>he gave his one and only Son</u>, that <u>whoever</u> <u>believes</u> in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16</u>

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

I believe if we extend fellowship to others and experience fellowship ourselves, we will mature in our faith, thrive in our daily lives and become a compelling witness to a watching world.

II. THE ELEMENTS OF FELLOWSHIP

FELLOWSHIP ELEMENT #1

"... <u>encourage</u> one another and <u>build</u> each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

The Greek word for *"encourage"* means:

"to exhort, encourage, comfort, console and implore."

"The deepest urge in every human heart is to be in relationship with someone who absolutely delights in us..."

-Dr. Larry Crabb: Connecting, 45.

"When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. As they danced, they sang: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."" 1 Samuel 18:6-7

"Jonathan became <u>one in spirit with David</u>, and he loved him as himself." 1 Samuel 18:1

III. JONATHAN'S MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

1. JONATHAN _____ DAVID'S SUCCESS.

"This pleased all the people, and Saul's officers as well." 1 Samuel 18:5

"Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. <u>Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand</u>."

Philippians 2:3-4 (Message)

God called Jonathan to partner with David not to compete with him.

2. JONATHAN ______ GOD'S CALL ON DAVID'S LIFE.

"And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt." 1 Samuel 18:3-4

3. JONATHAN ______ DAVID FROM SAUL.

¹"Saul told his son Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David ²and warned him, 'My father Saul is looking for a chance to kill you. Be on your guard tomorrow morning; go into hiding and stay there. ³I will go out and stand with my father in the field where you are. I'll speak to him about you and will tell you what I find out.'

⁴Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, 'Let not the king do wrong to his servant David; he has not wronged you, and what he has done has benefited you greatly. ⁵He took his life in his hands when he killed the Philistine. The Lord won a great victory for all Israel, and you saw it and were glad. Why then would you do wrong to an innocent man like David by killing him for no reason?'

⁶Saul listened to Jonathan and took this oath: 'As surely as the Lord lives, David will not be put to death.'" 1 Samuel 19:1-6



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