

The Dilemma of Disconnection (various texts)

9-4-10

Scripture Reading - Acts 2:36-47

Acts 2:36-47 - A beautiful picture of what God meant His church to be.

- There is no greater evangelistic tool than a group of people who passionately know, love, and follow Jesus and who passionately know and love each other as well.
- If a church is not seeing friends and family, coworkers and neighbors, and even strangers they meet on the streets come to Jesus, it is because one or both of these pieces is missing.

Now there are a million reasons why a church may lack passion for God and each other, but I only want to focus on one of them today... *relational disconnection.*

- Just as nothing does more to influence an outsider's view of a church than how excited its people are about God and each other, nothing does more to influence an insider's view of a church than how connected or disconnected they are relationally.
 - o Scale analogy

Why it that relational connection carry so much weight for us?

Because God made us that way! *We are relational people because God is a relational God, and we are created in His image.*

- **That's why we all long for deep, meaningful, satisfying relationships with both God and each other.**
- **Jesus makes the satisfaction of both these longings possible.**
 - o There's nothing like relationship with other believers.
 - Belize
 - o There's REALLY NOTHING like relationship with God Himself.
 - "But whatever was to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count EVERYTHING as loss compared to the surpassing

GREATNESS of KNOWING Christ Jesus my Lord.”
Philippians 3:7-8

- This has been my experience.

God created us for, and desires us to have, deep, meaningful, satisfying relational connections with both Himself and each other, just like Jesus did.

- God, 3, 12, 72, masses.

So what do we do about disconnection?

Disconnected

- 1) Pray
- 2) Be Proactive
- 3) Look for others who are disconnected
- 4) Look outside the box

Connected

- 1) Pray
- 2) Help people connect
- 3) Make room on your lego block by...
 - a. Adding pegs
 - b. Freeing up pegs
 - o Connection Task Force