

Away From Isolation: Seeking Solitude and Finding Love

Scriptures

Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. Pro 18:1

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 1 Co 2:2

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. 2 Co 3:18

Key Points

What is Isolation?

- Isolation is sitting alone with the dark side of ourselves
- Isolation is sitting where we do not think God sees us
- Isolation is separating ourselves either physically or emotionally from God and from others

A Why do we isolate?

- We want to be God
- We want to hide from the face of God
- We are unable to trust God to meet our deepest longings and needs
- We use isolation as a weapon against others
- Satan deceives us and uses isolation to gain a stronghold against us
- We isolate because it is our sinful propensity

Evil Cousins of Isolation: Loneliness and Desperate Interactions

- Loneliness feeds our deepest inadequacies and fears
- Jesus and the people of God are the anecdote for loneliness
- Obsession to avoid loneliness leads to a variety of desperate interactions
- We fight our propensity for desperate interactions by sitting in loneliness and looking to Christ as our all

Seeking Solitude

- We move beyond salvation by works to salvation by grace
- We accept and move into the purposeful providence of God being active in your life
- We learn to depend only on Jesus Christ and Him crucified for all things

Finding Love

- The journey begins by receiving Christ and His grace
- The journey grows by growing and moving into the Love of Christ that has been poured into our hearts
- These graces grow as we enter Solitude, as we enter into the place of rest prepared for us by Christ

Discussion Table Questions

- How far have you moved beyond salvation by works to salvation by grace?
- What keeps you from accepting purposeful providence and God being active in your life?
- What does it mean to you to depend only on Jesus Christ and Him crucified for all things?

...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:22-23