

Firm Footing In Community



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The Main Thing: Our God is a relational God of love and in his wisdom and love for us He created us in His image.

¶¶ *And I saw that all labor and all achievement spring from man's envy of his neighbor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. The fool folds his hands and ruins himself. Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind. Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. "For whom am I toiling," he asked, "and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?" This too is meaningless—a miserable business! Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. Better a poor but wise youth than an old but foolish king who no longer knows how to take warning. The youth may have come from prison to the kingship, or he may have been born in poverty within his kingdom. I saw that all who lived and walked under the sun followed the youth, the king's successor. There was no end to all the people who were before them. But those who came later were not pleased with the successor. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¶¶*

—Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 (NIV)

Four reasons why we need community:

- Two people are better than one

- If one person falls, the other can help
- Someone to keep us warm when it's cold
- We need someone who has our back

Enemies of community

1. Competition and envy are the enemies of closeness and community.
2. Laziness and apathy are the enemies of intentionality.
3. Valuing wealth over people is the enemy of intimacy.
4. Pride is the enemy of the fullness God has for us.