

# Recovering AWE

desert breeze  
community church



Saturday & Sunday, April 16/17, 2016 Ray Davis

## Ecclesiastes 4:1-16 “Relationships”

There is no way you will be able to survive or even thrive spiritually apart from a deep involvement in a Biblically functioning community of believers (Acts 2:42-47).

### Root Causes for Our Disconnectedness:

Distrust Vv 1-3 (Pro 18:19)

Envy V 4 (James 4:1-3)

Laziness V 5 (Pro 24:33-34)

Fatigue V 6 (Pro 17:1)

Greed Vv 7-8 (Ps 127:2)

It was not good for the man to be alone (Gen 2:18) not because he was imperfect but because he was perfect. If he needed community in his perfect state even more do we need it in our imperfect (fallen) state?!

### The Benefits Far Outweigh the Risks:

Synergy V 9 (1 Cor 12)

Support V 10 (Gal 6:2)

Consoling V 11 (Ps 133:1)

Strength V 12 (Matt 18:19-20)

You become a Christian by committing yourself to Christ. You become a member of a local church family by committing yourself to other believers.

Vv 13-16 Success, achievements & popularity is not a bad thing—when it's done in the right way for the right reasons. But it is fleeting and no substitute for deep life giving relationships!!!

The difference between a consumer and a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is the difference between seeing the church as a place you attend rather than a group of people and God's redemptive purposes you are intimately involved in.

### Growing Notes

- 1) There is no way you will be able to survive or even thrive spiritually apart from a deep involvement in a Biblically functioning community of believers (Heb 3:12-13; 10:24-25). Do you think most American Christians believe that? Why or Why not? What is deep involvement in a Biblically functioning community of believers?
- 2) Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-8. Review the Root Cause of disconnectedness along with cross references. Which one(s) do you struggle with the most?
- 3) Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Review the list of benefits that far outweigh the risks of community along with cross references. Which one(s) do you appreciate the most? Which ones are you in most need of currently? Why do so few of us have relationships like this?
- 4) Read Ecclesiastes 4:13-16. What are your thoughts on the statement on the sermon notes in regards to these verses? Why do you think that no matter the success, achievements or popularity a person has, in the end what matters most are relationships with God and others. Explain. What is God speaking to you from this study? Pray.