

Importance of getting connected

Dan Nelson – pastor

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Recently I have been poring over some difficult decisions. These determinations are not the usual kind of decisions that a pastor is typically involved with on a day-today basis. These recent selections are the kind, however, that most people these days have to deal with every couple of years. I am talking about upgrading my cell phone.

At first, this may seem to be a trivial choosing compared to others that I make, but it sure seems consequential when there is a major event going on in someone's life and I am "out of touch." Sometimes it is crucial that I get the call or the email quickly. When someone in our church is in a crisis, I want to be involved. These days, this means a reliance on technology. I have multiple electronic devices to keep me organized and connected, with my schedule and calendar, e-mail, instant messaging, voice mail and, once in a while, actual live communication, it can be consuming simply to learn how to use all this stuff.

I know that housewife and businessperson alike feel my pain. When the children dial, the call must go through. When the client is on the line, you need to know. You need to be connected! I know this idea of "being connected" really seems to be the buzz these days, but it is rooted in truth. The major media companies develop slogans and advertising programs around this concept to influence your buying and lifestyle decisions. Although technology may or may not be the answer, did you know that God designed us to be "in connection" with one another?

The Bible teaches us that we are designed by God with certain primary attributes; among them is an essential to "need" one another. Almost everyone knows the basics behind the Genesis account of creation. Initially, everything was "good" in God's creation. There was one thing, however, that wasn't. What is the first thing mention in Scripture that is "not good"? Remember? "It is not good for man to be alone."

In the Book of Ephesians, the Scriptures describe the diversity of people and gifts that God gives them. He pictures the church as an environment where everyone uses their unique giftedness to "help and build up" one another for the benefit of all. What an exciting idea. And this is God's will for his people.

Part of the root of some problems in life that we do not have to experience is the fact that we tend to isolate from one another instead of drawing strength from each other when going through difficult times. We pray to God for help in time of need and fail to look to the people in our lives as a primary way that God wants to answer that prayer. But Jesus clearly taught of his spirit being placed into the lives of his

people and that through our "ministering" to one another, it would actually be God himself doing the miracle through us. God gets the glory and he often uses us. This is his design.

So here is my exhortation. Don't just use your technology to pay bills online, do research, send chain letters, or talk about the weather. Connect! Communicate with the people in your life about deeper things; about your prayer, your faith, your struggles, and pain, and triumphs. Draw on the strength and wisdom God has given to the people in your life, and bring help back into their lives. Understand what the will of God is for you and be blessed.

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Mid-Week Study:

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