

Introduction

Last week we talked about how a Christian should respond to getting older. We looked at the life of Caleb and saw that as Christians we should get rid of the human attitudes toward aging.

- “ Uselessness
- “ Gilt
- “ Self-Pity
- “ Fear

And put on the Christ like attitude using the principle we learned:

“Since every day is a gift from God,
I live each one enthusiastically for Him.

We learned of two very obvious truths. They perfectly apply to all of us.

- “ It is possible for life's greatest achievements to occur in old age
- “ There is no retirement from Christian life

I know of no more potent killer than isolation. There is no more destructive influence on physical and mental health than the isolation of you from me and us from them. It has shown to be more a central agent in the etiology of depression, paranoia, schizophrenia, rape, suicide, mass murder, and a wide variety of disease states. Professor Phillip Zimbardo

Our world has developed and adopted the unwritten regulation so often observed in elevators.

Absolutely no eye contact, talking, smiling, or relating without written permission from the management.

John Donne, a seventeenth century sage from the Old Country, would never have thought it possible. He wrote this once familiar, but soon to be forgotten thoughts

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less ã any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for who the bell tolls; it tolls for thee. John Donne, a seventeenth century sage from the Old Country

As one man observes.

“The well-tended front lawn is the modern moat that keeps the barbarians at bay.”

What is Involvement?

In the dictionary we find that being involved means to draw in as a participant, to relate closely, to connect, to include+

When you and I involve ourselves with someone, we “connect” with them.

To break this down into manageable terms,
Christians have at least four areas of
involvement to maintain.

1. Our involvement with God
2. Our involvement with members of our family
3. Our involvement with other Christians
4. Our involvement with non-Christians

Christians can be like a family of porcupines

To dwell above with saints we live

That will be grace and glory

To live below with saints we know

That's another story+

Acts 2 42 ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The Greek term for fellowship is koinonia. The root meaning is %common+.

Acts 2 43-45 ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need

A few observations . their mutual involvement had four characteristics:

- “ It was entered into by everyone (all, everyone, anyone)
- “ It helped hold them together in times of great need
- “ It was genuine, spontaneous, never forced, Sincerity was there.
- “ It added to their sense of unity and harmony.

Acts 4: 32-35 ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.³⁴ that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Without exception, it is express in one of two ways

1. It is used in the sense of sharing something with someone else

- . Food, money, supplies, encouragement, time ,and concern.

2. It is used in the sense of sharing in something with someone else

- . A project, a success, a failure, a need, a hurt

One - God Commands It

Romans: 12: 9-16 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Two – The Body Needs It

1 Cor 12:20-27 ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, but one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²²On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,

²⁴while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

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What Does Involvement Include?

Spontaneity

²⁵so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

What Does Involvement Include?

Vulnerability

Vs 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Accountability

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Conclusion

Never forget, isolation is a potent killer.

Getting involved is not simply an enjoyable luxury for those who have time on their hands, its essential for survival.