

INTENTIONAL: In Loving the Lonely
Pastor Bill Bowers
October 23, 2016

Why are more of us dealing with "Emotional Poverty"?

1. Break down of _____.
2. Increased _____.
3. Heavy _____.
4. Rise of social _____.

How Do We Love the Lonely?

1. Love with _____.

A man with leprosy came and knelt before [Jesus] and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Matthew 8:2

Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Matthew 8:3

2. Love by _____.

[Jesus] asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" He asked... Luke 24:17-19

3. Love with _____.

"Don't you be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and will help you. I will hold you up with My victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

It seems that from Scripture, both through the Old Testament teachings and through the New Testament, the “lonely” and “marginalized” have a special place in the heart of our God. Can you give some Scripture verse examples where you can point to God’s instructions directing us to care for and show favor to the lonely? Try to provide two or three from each testament.

The term “emotional poverty” was mentioned in our teaching. How would you describe this phenomenon to someone? Have you or do you experience emotional poverty?

- How do you think the breakdown of families contributes to emotional poverty? Can you give examples of what causes family breakdowns? Are there any warning signs of these breakdowns in your family?
- What does increased mobility have to do with emotional poverty?
- If heavy workloads contribute to emotional poverty, what can we do to remedy the threat?
- Social media was mentioned as a potential contributor to the problem of emotional poverty. Can you list reasons why?

Pastor Bill gave us some biblical examples of the “lonely” in our lesson this Sunday. Who are “the lonely” in the places you frequent and travel during the course of your week?

Loving the lonely through your touch—In what ways can your touch impact the lonely in your circles of influence? What does your “touch” look like? Be specific.

Loving the lonely through your listening—Listening well to others is a skill that must be cultivated and practiced or it will be lost. What practices can you engage that might help you listen well to others? How would you describe the person who listens well to you? What do they do that makes them a “good listener”?

Loving the lonely through your time—It might be argued that our time is the most valuable commodity in our present age...no one seems to have enough. If **you** don’t have enough time for yourself, how do you have time to share with the lonely? What can you do to increase the amount of time you have available to share with others, including the lonely? Who needs your time the most?

What or where should your first step in loving the lonely be? Is it focusing on your emotional poverty? Working on touch, listening skills, creating time?

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