

**Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
2080 West Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48208
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“The Never Alone Church”
Lesson 3: People Need God and One Another

Goal: To become the “The Never Alone Church” by practicing the Great Commandment of Love with our community of believers, which will enable us to fulfill the mandate given in the Great Commission.

Objective: To study and apply the Living Word of God to fulfill God’s purpose and expectation for healthy and productive relationships with one another.

Have you convinced yourself and others that God is all you need? According to David Ferguson, the author of The Never Alone Church, we are biblically incorrect when we assert that God is all we need.¹

God is the ultimate source for meeting all our needs, but we also need a new perspective on human needs and God’s provision for those needs.² God created Adam with a need for human relationships. According to Genesis 2, our sovereign God created us with relational needs and chose to meet some of those needs through other people. We were created as relational beings who were intended to have healthy relationships with others. Therefore, we have a need for both God and other people.³

Discussion Point: How can your relationships with others to fulfill God’s purpose and provide encouraging, fruitful, up-building and maturing interactions with other people?

Scripture: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another. —John 13:34.

God realized that man needed a companion or helper that would compliment him in fulfilling his task of administering dominion over the Earth.⁴

Scripture: “And the Lord said It is not good that man should be alone I will make him a helper comparable to him”, (Genesis 2:15)

¹ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998, 26

² Ibid., 26

³ Ibid, 27

⁴ MacArthur, John, *The Mac Arthur Study Bible*, Nashville: Word Publishing, 1997, footnote - Gen. 2:15

Imagine the difference in the impact of these two messages: “we only need God” versus “we need God and one another.”

We are created with a capacity to love and be loved by God and others. Meeting our relational needs through others was God’s original plan. Love for God is incomplete without love for our neighbors and was found to be important in the teachings of Jesus.⁵

Discussion Point: What are the challenges in fulfilling God’s plan for us to love our neighbor as ourselves?

Scripture: By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
—John 13:35

Wrong Behavior and Unmet Needs

When a growing sense of aloneness is present, people are much more vulnerable to compromise.⁶ Relational aloneness can be described as a sense of inner disconnectedness, emotional isolation, or relational alienation. This may result when one does not experience and share God’s Great Commandment love, that intimate relationship with God and care for others. Our lives are to be lived in the context of relationships or some needs may not be met, such as care, concern, advice, encouragement, fellowship, companionship, friendship, wise counsel, prayer, comfort, and reassurance.

Discussion Point: You may have noticed the correlation between unmet needs through aloneness and vulnerability to compromise, and possible exposure to danger, sickness, brokenness, and depression, etc. How can we reach out to others who appear isolated?

Reaching out to those who are alone can produce fruitful results as illustrated in the parable of the Prodigal Son.

Scripture: “And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad; for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”

— Luke 15: 31-32

God is sovereign but He created us with relational needs that are to be met with others. It is observed that Jesus sought support from His disciples when He was in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion. He requested that His disciples, Peter, James, and John wait while He went to pray to His Father; this was a relational need, *“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even until death. Stay here and wait for me.”* (Matthew 26:38)

While God’s heart is touched by our sincere faith and belief, it is also extended to the hearts of others. We must be careful not to equate self-reliance with spiritual maturity.⁷ Since meeting our relational needs through others was God’s original plan, the commandment of love does not stop with loving God⁸ *And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* —Matthew 22:39

⁵ Ferguson, David, 32

⁶ Ibid, 33

⁷ Ferguson, David, *The Never Alone Church*, Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1998

⁸ Ferguson, David

Biblical Exercise: Plan to share with your Deacon's group your experience with how someone met your needs and eased your burden or discomfort.

The Great Commandment of Love:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

[Matthew 22:37-40]

The Great Commission:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

[Matthew 28:19-20, NKJV]

Monthly Biblical Exercises

December, 09 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Forgiveness*

January, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *Relevance for ‘The Never Alone Church*

February, 2010 Monthly Biblical Exercise: *People Need God and One Another*