



Now What? - Day 5

Don't Do Life Alone - Why You Need Community More Than You Know

God did not design you to live alone. We are all created for community. We are stronger when we are living with others and not trying to do life alone. This is especially true as a new believer. You need other believers to encourage, teach, pray, and worship with you.

In Genesis 1-2, we read about how God created everything. If you haven't read these chapters before, you might want to take a look at them.

In the first book of the Bible called Genesis, we see how the world was created. With little effort but wonderful creativity, God creates the heavens and the earth and everything in it. The breadth and depth of what God was able to get done in just six days is sobering for any results-oriented, type-A person. Talk about cranking it out! But then again, there is no one like Him. He's God.

As God creates the world, a recurring phrase appears. In fact, six times after God creates something the Bible says, "and God saw that it was good." From the light, to the sea, to the sky, to the land, to the sun, the moon, the stars, and the animals, God's assessment of what He's created is always the same: it is good. God is pleased. Then on the sixth day, God creates humanity. And God is so pleased by what He's created that His assessment changes. He looks at humanity and says that we're "very good." But then something unexpected happens.

God looks at Adam, the first man, and says that something isn't right. In Genesis 2:18 He says, "*It is not good for the man to be alone.*" Many people hear this bible verse at weddings and think it is about marriage. But God is making a statement here that goes beyond marriage. At its core, this is a statement about how each of us needs community.

Many of us live lonely and isolated lives like Adam. At the end of a long, hard day at work, we retreat to our homes, close the garage door and escape. We spend hours on the internet or social media. We binge watch whatever we can find on Netflix or Disney+. The truth is, at the end of most days, we don't want to see any more people. We want to get away from them!

But at the same time, we crave relationships. We have this deep longing for them. We're around people all day long but nobody truly knows us. And deep inside we know that's not the way it's supposed to be. This is because God created us for deep and meaningful relationships with others who will encourage us, support us, love us, and help us grow.

You see, we were created in the image of a relational God. God is a relational being. Together, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit make up the Trinity and are three persons in one. That's why when God created Adam He says, "*Let US make man in OUR image*" (Genesis 1:26). And just as God is a relational being, we too were created for significant relationships. The need for deep and meaningful relationships is part of our genetic makeup.

Henry Cloud, who is a Christian author and psychologist, says it well: "God created us with a hunger for relationship - for relationship with Him and with our fellow people. At our very core, we are relational beings." He goes on to say, "The soul cannot prosper without being connected to others."

And this is why, from God's perspective, doing life alone is "not good." At Northway Church we are passionate about making sure you don't do life alone. We want to help you grow in your relationships with God and others.

That's why we've created so many opportunities for you to find community. Two great ways to do that are to...

- 1. Join the Dream Team** - Joining the Dream Team is a great way for you to get connected to the life of Northway Church. When you become part of the Dream Team, you'll be using your gifts and abilities to serve God and others. Fill out this form if you're interested in serving and someone from our team will reach out to you: <https://northwayny.churchcenter.com/people/forms/190276> You can also fill out a Connect card during a Sunday service.
- 2. Join a Connect Group** - Connect Groups are a great place to be in community and to grow spiritually with both In-Person and Online options available. Browse connect groups at this link: <https://northwayny.churchcenter.com/groups>