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EVANTELL'S

FALL 2021

dis/connect: HOW TO REBUILD CONNECTIONS WITH THE PEOPLE AROUND US

5 WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS

By DAVID SOUTHER

1 GET IN SYNC WITH THE LORD.

Throughout His Word, God calls us to connect with others. However, our culture desires to be more isolated than ever. We must begin each day saturating our minds with His word, basking in His presence in worship, and communicating with Him in prayer. If you're starting your day by diving into social media or news, get on mission to turn that around and connect with the God who wants to connect you to others.

2 ADDRESS SIN.

If we want to clearly see the opportunities God gives us, we need to confess the sins that disrupt our fellowship with Him. Sin dulls us to the things of God, including opportunities to reach out to others. It turns our attention inward, causing spiritual nearsightedness where we only focus on ourselves.

3 BE OPPORTUNISTIC.

Opportunities are much more evident when we are looking for them. Many of us have allowed society to train us to keep our heads down and mind our own business everywhere we go. However, in the Great Commission, Jesus tells us to make disciples as we go. We can't do both. Choose to pay attention to those around you. Where can you offer a smile, a word of encouragement, or even start a conversation that leads toward the Lord?

4 BORROW TIME FROM YOURSELF.

We are tempted to fill schedules until there is little margin. Are you rushing from place to place and avoiding inviting anyone over because "there is no time?" I highly encourage you to pick a day this week to carefully examine how you spend the 24 hours God grants you each day. You will likely find opportunities to "borrow" time from an area that's not so important so you can make time to be more intentional about connecting with others.

5 DON'T LET A MISSED OPPORTUNITY KEEP YOU FROM THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY.

Sometimes, we miss an opportunity to reach out and kick ourselves for missing the "might have been." However, if we dwell too long on what might have been, we can miss out on what is happening now. If that happens to you, ask the Lord to teach you what you need to know about that missed opportunity, and then move on to the next one.

"MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN THESE EVIL DAYS. DON'T ACT THOUGHTLESSLY, BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LORD WANTS YOU TO DO."

EPHESIANS 5:16-17

THREE WAYS GOD'S LOVE IS DIFFERENT THAN OURS

(AND HOW IT SHOULD IMPACT HOW WE REACH OTHERS)

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

1

GOD'S MOTIVATION FOR LOVE.

The Bible says God loved us before we loved Him (1 Jn 4:19), and while we were still sinners, God demonstrated His love for us in Christ (Romans 5:8). He loves us even as we sin against Him. How can we be more like that with people? Are we waiting to reach out and show love to only those who show love to us? Take a moment to look up and read Luke 6:32 to see Jesus' thoughts on that.

2

GOD'S REASONING FOR LOVE.

God's reason for loving us is because He wants to. He doesn't love us because he is obligated to – it is His desire. He is love. How can we reflect that kind of unearned love to those we tend to overlook around us? How wonderful it would be for others to experience the unexpected and undeserved love of Christ expressed in our interactions with them.

3

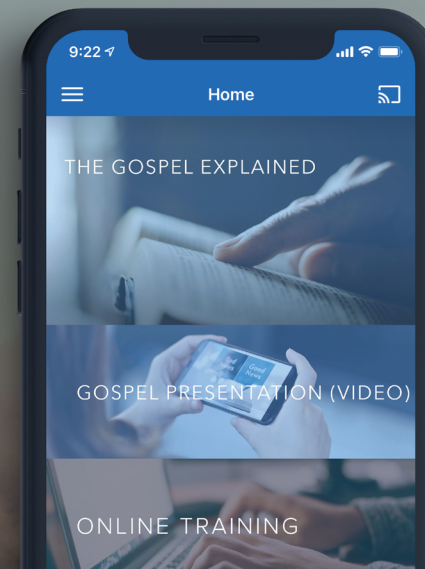
GOD'S FILTER FOR LOVE.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of who God is and how He loves us (John 1:1, 1:14; 3:14-20). And Jesus came for everyone, regardless of nationality, background, past sins or behavior. However we tend to use "worth" as a filter. This person is worthy of my love because he/she is my spouse, child, close friend, or relative. What if we sought to remove that filter and just reach out to others because God placed them around us?

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GOD'S LOVE IS UNCONDITIONAL. BE SURE YOURS IS TOO.

– ST. AUGUSTINE



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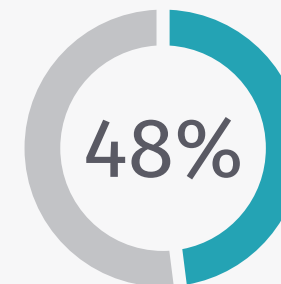


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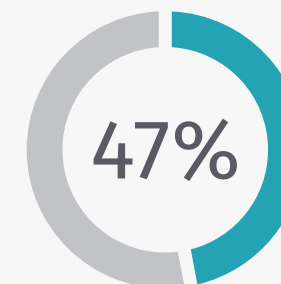
Despite constant connection through technology, people feel more disconnected and alone than ever. In a 2020 research poll from Cigna, a vast portion of society reports feeling lonely.



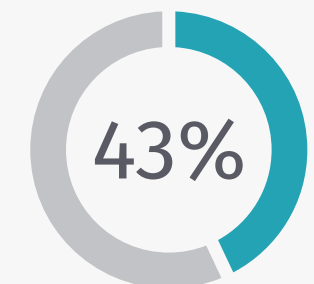
GEN Z



MILLENNIALS



GEN X



BABY BOOMERS

PEOPLE ARE DESPERATE FOR CONNECTION.



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