

“I’ll be there for you”

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Introduction: We need to know who we can depend on.

- A. The relationships we make will determine the kind of life we will live.
 - 1. God made us with the need for others. **(Gen 2:18)**
 - 2. In prison “solitary confinement” is a hard punishment.
 - 3. There is an inner strength that comes when others are there to help and share our lives. **(Ecc 4:9-12)**
- B. God knows our needs and will provide.
 - 1. He will allow us to be tested by relationships.
 - 2. God tells us He will always be there for us. **(Heb 13:5-6)**

I. The difference one person can make

- A. Paul faced a time of “no rest” and where “outside were conflicts, inside were fears.” **(2 Cor 7:5)**
 - 1. Faithful men will be brought to points like this where the mind can torment them.
 - 2. In this case Paul had been carrying a necessary burden as an apostle: “my deep concern for all the churches.” **(2 Cor 11:28)**
 - 3. He was burdened by how the church at Corinth might react. When it comes to men we cannot know how they might react to a given situation.
- B. Paul desperately needed to see Titus. **(2 Cor 12:12-13)**
 - 1. Titus had a love for the Corinthians just like Paul did. **(2 Cor 8:16, 23)**
 - 2. Titus had taken God’s word to the Corinthians and would now report to Paul how they had received it.
 - 3. Paul had no regrets about delivering God’s word to them. **(2 Cor 7:8-10)**
 - 4. Whatever the reaction Paul could deal with it. He needed to know and Titus could share whatever burden or joy with Paul the occasion would bring.
 - 5. Paul found that comfort when he finally met Titus! **(2 Cor 7:5-6, 13)**
 - 6. Our God can provide such people in our lives!

II. The pain of carrying burdens alone

- A. Loneliness is the “state of being alone” or the pain caused by the desire for companionship.
 - 1. Towards the end of Paul’s life he experienced the pain of standing alone. **(2 Tim 4:16)**
 - 2. There are events that can suddenly thrust us from a world surrounded by people to a hostile world where we are alone. **(Job 29:4-12; 30:10-11, 26-29)**
 - 3. There is a good probability that you will walk down this path in your life!
- B. You do not feel complete and secure. **(Ecc 4:9-10)**
- C. You tend to look upon the past. Could Job return to the past? **(Job 29:1-5)**

- D. You focus upon yourself. It is like being hungry. You cannot help but notice! You are made to feel different and even unwanted. **(Job 30:9-10)**
- E. It can drain your energy.
 - 1. You can second-guess yourself and even second-guess God!
 - 2. When left alone our emotions can grow and eventually create their own reality. **(1 Kings 19:4, 14)**

III. How I need another to “be there for me.”

- A. To share my hurts and my joys. **(1 Cor 12:21-27)**
 - 1. What is the first thing you want to do when something great happens to you? **(Lk 15:9)**
 - 2. Should we as Christians care if another Christian is left alone?
- B. To stand with you during times of conflict. **(Heb 10:32-33)**
 - 1. This is a cruel world and it is not getting better.
 - 2. Each of us will be hurt and will heal. We can help others! **(2 Cor 1:3-4)**
- C. To stand up against others who will gossip and whisper. **(2 Cor 12:20)**
 - 1. We need the help of our brothers to avoid the wisdom of Satan.
 - 2. What would you want another to do if it was you that was being talked about?
- D. To point me to the Lord even at the cost of my relationship! **(Prov 27:6, 9, 17)**
 - 1. What does a real friend desire for me?
 - 2. Please do not let your emotions cast off a real friend! **(Prov 17:17; 27:10)**

IV. Be the kind of person you want to “be there” for you

- A. You let God be the foundation of all that you are. **(Phil 3:7-8)**
 - 1. You will be an “oddball” to the world.
 - 2. You are willing to forsake any relationship that takes you away from God. **(Heb 11:24-26)**
- B. You want truth and mercy because you know God!
 - 1. Truth is the path to repentance and a relationship with God. **(Jn 3:19-21)**
 - 2. Mercy comes from an understanding of how God has and will deal with us. **(James 2:13)**
- C. You are thinking of others ahead of yourself. **(Phil 2:19-21)**
 - 1. It is not enjoyable being around someone who always thinks of himself.
 - 2. Why would anyone think of you before he would think of himself? **(Phil 2:3-5)**
- D. Be an example when present or away from others. **(Phil 1:27)**
 - 1. You can encourage another while being far away.
 - 2. You can encourage another after you die! Memories speak as long as we live!
- E. Fight the bitterness and pride of Satan. **(James 3:14)**
 - 1. Being friends of “scoffers” and “murmurs” does you much harm. **(Psa 1:1)**
 - 2. The result of Satan’s working is separation and division.

Conclusion: Can we be “there” for one another? **(Heb 10:22-25)**