

FOR LOVERS ONLY LOVE IS NOT CRAZY II

False assumption II. “If I have God, I don’t need people.”

¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:15,16

¹² I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

II John 12

³⁵ All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him.

Genesis 37:35

¹¹ All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

Job 42:11

- I. False assumption II. “If I have God, I don’t need people.”
- A. Don’t go to people for your answers, get them directly from God.
 - B. God meets your needs only directly! Whatever your symptoms, just read the Bible more and pray more!
 - C. Jesus is enough. It’s me and God against the world!
 - D. God can do anything directly, but he doesn’t do everything directly. He doesn’t eat and digest your meal and flush the toilet. He doesn’t drive you to the store. He doesn’t do your job for you at work.
 - E. God doesn’t specify that he won’t use others. God uses others to help you “grow”, to bring you “comfort”, “wisdom”, and “repair.”
 - F. It was not good that Adam had no human companion. (Genesis 2:18)
¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”
 - G. It’s not good to be alone in life. (Ecclesiastes 4:9,10)
⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.
 - H. All references to “one another” demonstrate the importance of relationship. (Romans 12:10;13:8; I Corinthians 12:25)
[Rom 12:10 NIV] *¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

[Rom 13:8 NIV] ⁸ *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.*

[1Co 12:25 NIV] ²⁵ *so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

II. When we think we don't need others, the body of Christ stops functioning as it should. (I Corinthians 12:21)

²¹ *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*

III. Both-and, not either-or.

A. We need 100% by both. (God and man.) It is God's hand, through his fingers (His people), which He has designed us to need.

B. Comfort can come through God alone. (Psalm 119:76)

⁷⁶ *May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.*

C. People are intimately involved in God's comforting process. (Genesis 37:35)

³⁵ *All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave." So his father wept for him.*

D. Even when a church member has sinned and been disciplined, we should comfort them. (II Corinthians 2:7)

⁷ *Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.*

E. Paul was greatly comforted by Philemon's love.
(Philemon 7)

⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

F. Paul was comforted by Titus's visit. (II Corinthians 7:6)

⁶ But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

G. Job had terrible comforters. (Job 16:12)

¹² All was well with me, but he shattered me; he seized me by the neck and crushed me. He has made me his target;

H. Job had great comforters. (Job 42:11)

¹¹ All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the LORD had brought on him, and each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

I. Jonathan helped David find strength in God.
(I Samuel 23:16.)

¹⁶ And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God.

J. The Bible doesn't dictate how God will meet a specific need. Directly, or through people.

K. "Me-and-God" teachers can't live what they teach. If I am loved only directly by God, then for me to comfort others or help them grow would be to cause them to sin.

L. Therefore, some people will merely point to Christ, refusing to be His fingers of practical care.

(James 2:15-16)

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

M. Don't downplay the incarnation. By becoming flesh, God baptized and affirmed our humanness. He made it acceptable to be just folks. We don't have to water down or transcend our humanity to be spiritual. To become spiritual, we must become more human. We are not to be more than human or less than human, we are simply to be human. The incarnation of Christ points out the absurdity of thinking you don't need people. As a man, Christ himself needed people!