**The Devastation of Disconnection**

**I want to talk about two points today:**

I want to talk about the importance of being connected with God and the importance of being connected with fellow believers…

**So again, I want to talk about two points:**

1. The devastating effects of being disconnected from fellow believers

2. The devastating effects of being disconnected from God

Now I know what you’re thinking … “Jonathan, we know! Seek God and hang with godly people…”

-But bear with me … I think the Lord is wanting to speak to each person where you are today.

You see, this pandemic has increased the amount of wide spread disconnection between believers and God and each other.

BUT IT DIDN’T START HERE … There has always been a fight from the enemy to get us disconnected!

**Let’s start with the first one about fellow believers…**

From the very FIRST BOOK of the Bible, God pointed out that it’s not good for us to do life alone.

**Genesis 2:18** **“**And the Lord God said, “*It is* not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

**Proverbs 18:1** “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;
He rages against all wise judgment.”

Sometimes we casually try to stay connected with men or women of God …

**But part of what I’m telling you is that you must FIGHT to stay connected!**

**1 Peter 5:8** “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

You know who are the most vulnerable to predators? Prey that are alone…

EXAMPLE: It’s like you’re a boat and the fellow believers are anchors for you.

 You’re most vulnerable when you disconnect from the anchors!

JUST BECAUSE YOU SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE, DOESN’T MEAN YOU’RE NOT DISCONNECTING!

Sometimes we put up walls or we hide things from the anchors in our lives.

We need to have anchors in our lives that we stay connected with. People that we trust to expose our sin into the light!

-Listen, we must expose our sins to the light

Someone may ask, why are you making it sound so dramatic? THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS of being disconnected.

 That’s because IT IS DEVASTATING!

I am SO tired of seeing pastors and leaders fall to sexual immorality!

My heart breaks for these people and leaders.

See, the enemy lures man and women to become disconnected from God and other believers!

CLARIFY: I’m not saying that they don’t still say, “What’s up?” to other believers and go to Bible studies…

What I’m saying is that they allow a portion of their life to go into darkness … Where no one knows about it but them because they disconnect that area from God and man.

 And that leaves them vulnerable!

Sin grows in darkness … Light is like kryptonite to sin.

**Proverbs 7:21–27** “With her enticing speech she caused him to yield,
With her flattering lips she seduced him.
**22**Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter,
Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,
**23**Till an arrow struck his liver.
As a bird hastens to the snare,
He did not know it *would cost* his life.

**24**Now therefore, listen to me, *my* children;
Pay attention to the words of my mouth:
**25**Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways,
Do not stray into her paths;
**26**For she has cast down many wounded,
And all who were slain by her were strong *men.*
**27**Her house *is* the way to hell,
Descending to the chambers of death.”

Just because someone falls into terrible sin doesn’t mean that they weren’t strong.

 But it does mean, that there’s a level of disconnection.

Because big sin almost always comes after a series of little compromises.

And it’s not just sexual sin that we can fall into… There are many different sins!

 -Gossip

 -Lies

 -Greed

 -Pride

 -And etc.

We can even just lose sight of what’s important!

That’s why staying connected is so vital.

We must FIND and stay connected to the fellow believers around us … Because the Lord wants them to be anchors for you.

You can’t dig yourself out of darkness.

* The key to getting darkness out is by getting light in…

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** “Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

I want to encourage you to get **the 3 layers of accountability:**

* + **Someone that mentors or covers you**
	+ **Someone that’s a peer, where you both sharpen each other**
	+ **Someone that you mentor or cover**

Someone may ask what the scriptures are to back this up…

1. We know the Bible says to submit to those who rule over you and that a wise man loves correction.
2. The Bible says to walk with the wise and you will become wise.
3. The Bible says to go into all the world and make disciples.

It is absolutely vital in your life that YOU FIGHT (others won’t do it for you) to stay connected with believers.

The final point, point number two:

**2. The devastating effects of being disconnected from God**

We connect with the Lord by spending time with Him.

* **PRAISE** - Enter into courts with praise
* **PRAYER**
* **HIS WORD**

If we understood the true value of God’s word, we wouldn’t treat it so lightly.

**Matthew 4:4** But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

**Psalms 119:105** “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path”

You know what that means? The word will show you:

1. WHERE YOU ARE
2. WHERE YOU’RE GOING

You may think you’re in a good place, but often times the word will open our eyes to how vulnerable we are.

**John 15:1–8** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5**“I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6**If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **7**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”

You being fruitful in life IS FULLY DEPENDENT on you being connected with the Lord!

If you’re not in connection with the Lord, you CANNOT fulfill your calling!