

“One Is the Loneliest Number”

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

April 15, 2026

I. Living only for _____ in this world does not satisfy.

“There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil, yet his eyes were not content with his wealth. “For whom am I toiling,” he asked, “and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?” This too is meaningless— a miserable business!

Ecclesiastes 4:8 (NIV)

- ❖ This person is living _____ himself and _____ himself.
- ❖ He is not interested in _____ in other people or in a family.
- ❖ He invests primarily in _____ and his _____.
- ❖ What Solomon is talking about here is very _____ to our culture today.

II. Many think that joy and satisfaction in life will be found in their _____ and _____.

III. A part of God’s design for us is _____ - marriage and children.

“The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

Genesis 2:18 (NIV)

“God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Genesis 1:28 (NIV)

“Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.”

Psalms 127:3-5 (NIV)

IV. God’s design for _____ is best for us rather than living in _____.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:”

Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIV)

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

Proverbs 17:17 (NIV)

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,”

Philippians 1:3-5 (NIV)

“Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.”

Proverbs 27:9 (NIV)

V. Investing yourself in other people has a better _____ than investing in a career.

❖ Investing in other people is _____.

1. The return of _____ when one is _____.

“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.”

Ecclesiastes 4:10 (NIV)

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

2. The return of _____ when the other is _____.

“Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone?”

Ecclesiastes 4:11 (NIV)

“There are “friends” who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Proverbs 18:24 (TLB)

3. The return of _____ when the other is _____.

“Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV)

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms... And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Ephesians 6:12, 18 (NIV)

“save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.”

Jude 1:23 (NIV)