

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!


UPCOMING EVENTS:


Baptism



Do you have a desire to be baptized but large crowds intimidate you? Or maybe just have more questions? Stop by the Welcome Center for more details and/or attend one of our *Baptism Informational Meetings today, or April 14 following each of our Sunday Services.*

We will hold two baptisms this year: May 5th (smaller setting) and September 1st (large party).

Follow Us Online

 www.ourelement.org

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Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure here at Element. It's where we see Disciple Making take place when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples; to share our lives so they are visible and accessible.

DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.

JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing connect@ourelement.org or visiting the Welcome Center.

Join Our Weekly Email Update

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to ourelement.org.



Week 12: Vapor Comparison Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 4:6
1 Samuel 15:22
Proverbs 15:17

Ecclesiastes 4:9-16
Deuteronomy 6:4
Genesis 2:18

John 13:35
John 15:13
Colossians 3:12-13

Week 12: Vapor Comparison

Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

We are in week 12 in our series on the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes is a look at an old man surveying his life and realizing that everything apart from God is meaningless because there is no purpose in life if there is no God. Solomon will make a lot of comparisons throughout the book, he will make these comparisons to help us understand what is actually better in life. Trusting God, community, friendships, good food, and wisdom are all better than their counterparts of loneliness, foolishness, despair, and vapor.

Have you ever made comparisons to determine if something was better than another?

What was it?

Today Solomon starts to run full force at our need for friendships with one another, he will do this in practical ways by speaking about safety and security.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.

Share a time when you experienced that two are better than one in your own life.

Originally man was meant to live in intimacy with God; man walked with God, talked with God, it was relationship. When God made man Genesis makes this interesting commentary in 2:18 - *Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."* God says, "not good," to man's being alone. That doesn't mean evil or sinful, just not good. There is this idea that God is above the man and creation is below the man (he has stewardship and responsibility for it) but there is NO ONE beside the man. God makes Eve to be in friendship, marriage covenant, and community with the man so they can be together and know the unity that God knows in Himself.

This doesn't just have to be marriage, there is a closeness that comes from deep meaningful friendships; it is a great gift given to humankind by God. This is why it was not good for the man to be alone.

In what ways do you like to be alone?

In what ways do you hate being alone?

Aloneness doesn't refer to "personal time," it refers to a condition that we were never meant to find ourselves in, a state of not being known by anyone to help us in the areas where we struggle.

Are there any areas in your life right now where you want someone to step in and walk with you through it?

We were made to know 'Oneness,' with God and deep connectedness with others, that is why loneliness is painful. Deep inside us there is a desire in us to be in community with God. Deep inside there is desire that craves to be in relationship with other people. Many times we don't move in the direction of those desires because of a fear that being known will show there is something broken in us (and others) that keeps us from engaging.

What fears do you have about friendships?

Have you ever been let down by friends?

How did that effect future friendships?

There is a thing called 'social capital' where we get our emotional social needs met in community; just like there is money (which is financial capital), information (intellectual capital), our friends and relationships are meant to be social capital. We need love and we need to give love to each other. This is why God called us to be the "church." Studies have shown that churches have the highest amount of social capital in the world, but those same studies have also shown that as churches have declined in the country, so has every other civic organization.

Where do you get, make, or produce social capital?

Why is this important?

Is there any place in your life right now that others can come along side you in an area of need?

God calls us to remember how He created us to live, and it was not alone.