

CONNECTING

Life Groups

August 26, 2018

Introduction: Many times, what holds us back from experiencing life and connecting with others, are our hidden demons. We love God, but our past, and sometimes our present circumstances, get in the way of developing relationships with others. This was a problem for Peter. Is it also why we often don't seek connections with others? Do I really want others to see the real me?

Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:20-21

I. Isn't Jesus Enough?

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "**Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.**" He said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶ He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "**Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.**" He said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "**Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.**" Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:15–17).

A. Is it enough for Peter to have a relationship with Jesus?

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus (Matthew 14:28–29).

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15–16).

³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:3–5).

Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." (Matthew 26:33).

Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear (John 18:10).

B. Do you love me?

⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, **"Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."** And he went out and wept bitterly (Matthew 26:74–75).

1. The embarrassment of my past.

2. The regret of my shame.

II. No, Jesus is Not Enough.

Peter answered him, "Though **they all fall away** because of you, I will never fall away." (Matthew 26:33).

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So **Peter got out of the boat** and walked on the water and came to Jesus (Matthew 14:28–29).

That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, **and threw himself into the sea** (John 21:7).

¹⁰ Jesus said to **them**, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ **So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them.** And although there were so many, the net was not torn (John 21:10–11).

A. If you truly love me, you will invest your life in people.

"Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, **"Feed my sheep"** (John 21:17).

B. When you connect with others and invest in them, you spend time with Jesus.

²⁰ If anyone says, **"I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.** ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother (1 John 4:20–21).

III. Let's Be Honest

A. There are times when it would be easier if we could love God and ignore our family.

B. Sometimes we can be irritating and exhausting. Others let us down. Sometimes others gossip about us. Connecting to other believers feels like more trouble than it is worth many times.

C. Then Jesus whispers in our ear...

“If you love me, you will love others.”

“If you love me, you will feed my sheep.”

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Scripture Reading: 1 John 4:20-21

I. Isn't Jesus Enough? (*John 21:15–17*)

A. Is it enough for Peter to have a relationship with Jesus?

(*Matthew 14:28–29*) (*Matthew 16:15–16*) (*Matthew 17:3–5*) (*Matthew 26:33*)
(*John 18:10*)

B. Do you love me? (*Matthew 26:74–75*)

1. The _____ of my _____.

2. The _____ of my _____.

II. No, Jesus is Not Enough.

(*Matthew 26:33*) (*Matthew 14:28–29*) (*John 21:7*) (*John 21:10–11*)

A. If you truly love me, you will _____ your _____ in people.
(*John 21:17*)

B. When you _____ with others and _____ in them, you
spend time with _____. (*1 John 4:20–21*)

“If you love me, you will love others.”

“If you love me, you will feed my sheep.”