



LIVING IN A SPIRITUAL WORLD

EPHESIANS 6:10-13 (NIV)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.



IN ATTACK, THE LEGIONARIES
EMPLOY THE FORMIDABLE
MILITARY MANOEUVRE
KNOWN AS 'THE TORTOISE'



COMMUNITY IS...

ACTS 2:1 (NIV)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...

REVELATION 21:3-7 (NIV)

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

GENESIS 1:26 (NIV)

“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

GENESIS 1:27 (NIV)

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

GENESIS 1:28 (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 2:18 (NIV)

“The Lord God said, it is not good for the man to be alone.”

“...fragment family life, move people away from the neighbourhoods where they grew up, set people further apart by giving them bigger houses and yards, and separate the places people work from where they live...”

HOWARD SNYDER

“...post-familial, disconnected culture where self is king,
relationships are thin, and individuals fend for themselves.”

HOWARD SNYDER

“My generation was taught to see each other not only as content to consume, and products to shop through, but as categories, sex objects, things to get pleasure from... All of it dehumanizing. Gazing into screens instead of eyes; preferring pixels over people; this whole numb retreat from one another.”

FREYA INDIA

‘After Babel Essay: “The Mass Trauma of Porn”’

"During my years caring for patients, the most common pathology I saw was not heart disease or diabetes, it was loneliness."

VIVEK MURTHY (former U.S. Surgeon General)

“Loneliness is a state of distress or discomfort caused by a gap between our desire for social connection and our actual experiences of it.”

PSYCHOLOGY TODAY

“Loneliness is an ache for something we used to have. Often an ache that we cannot even name.”

JUSTIN WHITMEL EARL,

‘Made For People: Why we Drift into Loneliness and how to Fight for a Life of Friendship’

“I still think that the greatest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved, just having no one... That is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience.”

MOTHER TERESA

GENESIS 3:6 (NIV)

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

GENESIS 3:7 (NIV)

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

WE ARE SAVED *FROM...*

WE ARE SAVED *FOR...*

WE ARE SAVED *TO...*

“Escaping from Egypt is only the first half of the exodus. It is easy for us to forget this, in an age where freedom is understood as merely being freedom from: from oppression, from constraint, or whatever. This aspect... is only half the deal. In the Scriptures, more emphasis is placed on the freedom for: for worship, for flourishing, for growth in obedience and joy and glory.”

ALISTAIR J ROBERTS AND ANDREW WILSON,
***‘Echoes of Exodus: Tracing Themes of Redemption Through
Scripture’***

“...the exodus was to be more than simply deliverance *from* slavery. God also intended the Israelites exodus experience to function as a deliverance *to* community.”

DR. JOSEPH HELLERMAN,
‘When the Church Was a Family’

1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 (J. B. PHILLIPS)

As the human body, which has many parts, is a unity, and those parts, despite their multiplicity, constitute one single body, so it is with the body of Christ. For we were all baptised by the Spirit into one body, whether we were Jews, Gentiles, slaves or free men, and we have all had experience of the same Spirit.

**COMMUNITY IS A GIFT FOR OUR FLOURISHING AS
HUMAN BEINGS**

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- How far have I drifted in the cultural current of radical individualism?

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- How far have I drifted in the cultural current of radical individualism?
- How connected am I into community?

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- How far have I drifted in the cultural current of radical individualism?
- How connected am I into community?
- If loneliness was a scale of 1-10, how lonely am I?