



STRENGTHENING OUR GRIP

A study of issues especially relevant to the lives and faith of Christian men

Lesson 4 → Strengthening Your Grip On Involvement:

- A. The impact of the ideals of “The Me Generation” and philosophy of “Looking Out For Number One” are far more reaching than the typical ways we think of – such as selfishness, materialism, & greed
 - 1. They impact down to the very core of our relationships – How we interact not only with our fellow man, but even how we interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - 2. Many in our society are living disconnected from others. The strong interpersonal relationships between neighbors, families, and even Christians seem to be fading
 - 3. People talk about wanting their privacy and so we build our privacy fences not only between our houses, but also in the relationships we form with those we know
 - 4. More and more, people are pursuing self-sufficient lifestyles that make sharing unnecessary
- B. This has had a very negative & destructive impact on Christians and churches throughout this country!
- C. In this lesson we are going to look at the subject of involvement.
Let’s use this to refocus our lives, strengthen our grip and win back the closeness that God intends for us to have through an active involvement in one another’s lives.

Questions For Class Discussion:

- 1. What does the term “involvement” mean? What does it mean to be involved in one another’s lives?

- 2. Name the different areas of our lives where we are involved with others. What are some challenges we face in maintaining a healthy involvement in each of these relationships?

- 3. Involvement with other Christians is closely related to the idea of fellowship. What is fellowship and how do we have fellowship with one another? (1 John 1:3-7; Phil 1:5; Gal 2:9; 2 Cor 6:14)

**“...I know of no more potent killer than isolation. There is no more destructive influence on physical and mental health than the isolation of you from me and us from them. It has been shown to be a central agent in the etiology of depression, paranoia, schizophrenia, rape, suicide, mass murder, and a wide variety of disease states”
(Professor Philip Zimbardo, Stanford University)**

**No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less... any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.
(John Donne)**

“That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” (1 John 1:3)



4. Read Acts 2:42-47 → What lessons can we learn about involvement from this passage?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 → What lessons can we learn about involvement from this passage?

6. Read Romans 12:9-16 → What lessons can we learn about involvement from this passage?

“Someone once suggested that we are like a pack of porcupines on a frigid wintry night. The cold drives us closer together into a tight huddle to keep warm. As we begin to snuggle really close, our sharp quills cause us to jab and prick each other – a condition which forces us apart. But before long we start getting cold, so we move back to get warm ag, only to stab and puncture each other once more. And so we participate in this strange, rhythmic “tribal dance.” (Swindoll)

7. Some people view the local church too much from an institutional or organizational standpoint. How might viewing it as an “organism” help increase our involvement? (See Gal 6:10; Col 1:18; 1 Cor 12)

8. We are commanded to be actively involved in one another’s lives. What do these passages teach us to do:

a. Romans 15:14 →

b. Galatians 5:13-15 →

c. Ephesians 4:31-32 →

d. Hebrews 3:12-14 →

e. Hebrews 10:23-25 →

f. 1 John 3:11-24 →

9. Search The Scriptures: What are some other ways involvement is practiced?

10. How does the home figure into our discussion of involvement? Look up a couple of instances where the home was used in the New Testament (especially in Acts and in the gospels) and discuss the role the home played in involvement and in fellowship (1 Peter 4:9 for starters).