

___ Dare To Care ___

how to cultivate meaningful relationships

Pursued by God, Pursuing God and Pursuing Others for his Glory

MAIN IDEA || We are pursued by God so that we can love and serve Him while we also care for others.

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." ~ C.S. Lewis

Ezekiel 34:11–16 [NLT]

"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. ¹² I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. I will bring them back home to their own land of Israel from among the peoples and nations. I will feed them on the mountains of Israel and by the rivers and in all the places where people live. I myself will tend my sheep and give them a place to lie down in peace, says the Sovereign Lord. I will search for my lost ones who strayed away, and I will bring them safely home again. I will bandage the injured and strengthen the weak. But I will destroy those who are fat and powerful. I will feed them, yes feed them justice!

Jeremiah 29:11-13 [NLT]

For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Why Do We Often Hesitate to Pursue Others?

1. We are (**distracted**) because we have so many things to pursue.
2. We are (**deceived**) and following the wrong map or the wrong person.
3. We (**delay**) in making a decision because it will cost us something.

What Should We Do?

1. We should (imitate) God.

*"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." **Ephesians 5:1-2 [NLT]***

2. We should be more (intentional) about caring for others by focusing on Him and others.
3. We should (act) on the instructions of our creator as he directs us to one-another.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE!

Imagine if we were to consistently:

- (love) one another.
- (serve) each other.
- (encourage) one another.
- (carry) burdens for others.
- (pray) for one another.

Why We Need to Act

1. Others will (know) God because of how you love one-another.
2. We will (avoid) self-inflicted hurts & pains.
3. We will (help) others in their walk with God.
4. We will Finish Strong and (leave) a Godly legacy that impacts those within our sphere of influence.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

1. God intentionally pursues you in the same way He pursued Israel:

*"For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search and find my sheep. ¹² I will be like a shepherd looking for his scattered flock. I will find my sheep and rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on that dark and cloudy day. **Ezekiel 34:11-16 [NLT]***

a. Are you willing/able to describe how God seemed to pursue you & your heart?

2. Do any of these accurately describe why **you** might hesitate to pursue others?

a. We are (**distracted**) because we have so many things to pursue.

b. We are (**deceived**) and following the wrong map or the wrong person.

c. We (**delay**) in making a decision because it will cost us something.

3. What is it about the example of Jesus that empowers you to be more

(**intentional**) about caring for others? (see scripture reference for help)

*"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God." **Ephesians 5:1-2 [NLT]***