

Bible Stories
God and Loneliness
by Grover Gunn
pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church
Jackson, TN

Psalm 33:6-9

- 6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.
- 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; he lays up the deep in storehouses.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
- 9 For He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

Genesis 1:1-5

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.
- 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.
- 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Before Creation, there was only God and nothing else. Everything else existed only as a thought in God's mind.

Illustration: When you get out your Lego blocks and decide to build a castle, before you pick up the first block,

the castle exists as a thought in your mind. And once this world existed only as a thought in the mind of God, and he was all alone.

Do you think God was lonely before he made heavens and the earth? Before creation, there were no angels in heaven and no people or animals on earth. Do you think God was lonely and needed a friend? Do you think that is why he made this world, so that he would have some friends to keep him company and to take away his loneliness?

No, that is not why God made the world. God is perfect and thus doesn't have any real needs which others must supply. Some people think that this means that God can't be loving and friendly. After all, people who think that they don't need anyone else and who always want to be left alone are usually not loving and friendly people. Some people think that is the way God must be if he is truly self-sufficient. In fact, some people think of God as a divine force. In the movie **Star Wars**, God is called the Force. But God is not a force. God is a person who loves and who is friendly.

Also, if God had created the world because he was lonely, then the only fellowship God would know is fellowship with angels and people and animals. That is fellowship with lesser beings and not full fellowship with someone equal. We can have a wonderful fellowship with a pet such as a dog or a cat, but that is not the same thing as the more intimate fellowship between a husband and a wife or the richer fellowship between a child and a parent or the fuller fellowship between close friends. If God is perfect, then he must have the most perfect fellowship possible. That can only be fellowship with an equal and not fellowship with a lesser being.

Well, God is perfect, and God was able to have such a perfect fellowship even when he existed alone. This is because there is something special about God. He is the only personal being who can be alone without being lonely. That is because God, who is one, exists as three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We can't fully understand this, but that shouldn't surprise us.

Illustration: You all know what a car is, don't you? But is there anyone here who understands everything about how a car turns gasoline into motion? Of course not. Well, if you don't understand everything about a car, then you shouldn't be surprised that you don't understand everything about God.

There is one God, but he exists as three persons. This seems strange to us because when we think of three persons, we think of three distinct individuals. When you think about two of your friends, you think not only about two persons but also about two distinct individuals. Your two friends both have a human mind and heart and will, but they also have distinct and separate minds and hearts and wills. God, however, is special and unique. God exists as three persons, but God has only one nature with one mind and heart and will. All three persons live and function and exist through this one divine nature. There is no one else like that.

Yet these three persons within God are truly three such that the three persons have a real fellowship and friendship with each other. They love one another and agree with each other and cooperate with each other. In fact, they cooperated with each other in our salvation. God the Father decided that he wanted to save a people from their sin and misery. God the Son agreed to become a man

named Jesus who would do the work necessary for this salvation. He would die on a cross and rise again from the dead. God the Spirit agreed to work in human hearts and apply to them the saving power of the work which God the Son had done.

We believe in God's oneness and God's threeness, but these are difficult concepts to put into words. One time I was speaking on this in east Africa. Everyone there could understand English, but they also wanted to hear what I was saying in their tribal language, which they knew better than they knew English. They could speak English, but they probably thought in their tribal language. I would say a sentence, and then the interpreter would translate it into the tribal language. After a while, the translator stopped and came over to me to ask me a question. I had been saying repeatedly that God is one being who exists as three persons. The translator told me that his native language did not have a word for "person." He had been translating the English word "person" with a word in his language which meant a human being. He wanted to know if that was alright. Well, no, that wasn't alright. It is not correct to say that God is one being who exists as three human beings. I told him to say instead that God is one being who exists as three faces. That is the best I could think of if I couldn't use the word "person."

Knowing the right word to express this is difficult. There is no word which expresses this completely because we are talking about something we can't fully understand. We simply have to be careful not to express ourselves in a way that implies something which the Bible says is not true about God.

Now we have the answer as to why God was not lonely before he created the world. There was only one God, but within God, God

the Father loved God the Son and God the Holy Spirit; God the Son loved God the Father and God the Holy Spirit; and God the Holy Spirit loved God the Father and God the Son. There was only one God, but God the Father could say to God the Son, "Hello, friend, I'm glad to be with you." And God the Father and God the Son could talk about the Holy Spirit and say, "He is really nice. I truly like him." There is only one God, but God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are friends who keep each other company. They have a fellowship that is deeper and richer and fuller than any fellowship we will ever know.

We have learned today that God is not lonely without us, but that doesn't mean that we are not lonely apart from God. We may have our friends and our special fellowships, but there is a loneliness deep inside of us if we are not also friends with God. Our problem is that our sins have made us God's enemies instead of God's friends. Jesus is the answer because Jesus can restore our friendship with God. Through his death on the cross, he accepted the punishment for sins which he did not commit, and based on that he offers us forgiveness for the sins we have committed. He also offers to take away our love of sinning so we can instead love God. When we love God, we can live to praise God and to serve God. That gives our life meaning as nothing else can.

The problem is that people love sinning so much that they don't want to be delivered from it. Without Jesus' forgiveness and deliverance, they can't be friends with God. Without friendship with God, life is lonely and meaningless. Sadly people love sinning so much that they are willing to pay that terrible price.

Pray that God will put within your hearts faith in Jesus. You need to trust Jesus to forgive you for sinning and to deliver you from

sinning. You need to trust Jesus as the one who can make you friends with God. When you are friends with God, then in the depth of your heart you are never lonely, and your life always is meaningful in a way which satisfies deep down inside as nothing else can.