

Sunday, January 24, 2021

By Rev. Michael Salemink

*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for[a] him." ~ Genesis 2:18*

### **Not Good to Be Alone**

A famous philosopher declared, "Hell is other people." Maybe that sentiment resonates with you. Nothing hurts like when someone lets you down - except perhaps when you let someone else down. The concerns of our neighbors and their needs certainly complicate our lives and our world.

Another famous philosopher proclaimed, "'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." He seems closer to the truth, doesn't he? An elevator door that opens into an inferno still beats one that never opens. Hate is horrible, but it's not the opposite of love. Even hate focuses us on someone besides ourselves. Love's real nemesis is selfishness. Hate kills others, but selfishness inflicts death upon ourselves. Hell isn't other people; hell is yourself, and yourself alone. As yet another famous philosopher put it, "We have seen the enemy, and he is us."

So God said it is not good to be alone. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made us so that He could love us. The Lord Jesus became incarnate and crucified because our Almighty God would rather tear Himself apart than toss any one of us aside. It costs more to forgive than to forsake, but it pays greater too. We're designed for relationships. He put you here to delight - and to delight in - others. Being male and female means we belong to someone else, somebody besides ourselves. Marriage and family, relationships and community, these bring the blessings that make their own burdens bearable.

A final famous philosopher confessed, "O Lord, you have made us for Yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in You." That's the stuff - a Father and His family.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, let me find my rest in Your fellowship. Amen.