

How can we learn not to push away those that love us?

It is very common for people to behave in a way that appears to seek to be apart from those that truly love and care for us.

1. What drives this desire to push them away?

Psalm **38:1-6**

1 Kings **19:9-10**

Psalm **73:11-16**

There are several reasons why people will have a desire to push others away. It could be a sense of utter worthlessness due to dwelling on personal sin. It could be a sense of being completely alone and that it would be impossible for anyone else to understand what you are going through and thus they are incapable of helping. It could be a sense of feeling that others around you who are ungodly seem to have it all together and are prospering while you are floundering. What ever the reason for pushing others away, the reason behind pushing them away is important to uncover, whether the reason is justified or not.

2. What do we need to remember about others?

Psalm **73:16-19**

Romans **8:5-8**

Mark **12:28-31**

1 Corinthians **12:17-22**

2 Corinthians **5:10-11**

Ephesians **4:10-15**

While it often appears that the ungodly individuals are prospering, that is only an appearance. We need to make a long term view. God tells us that all of the wicked will have to give an account to Christ for their actions. There is none who will escape God righteous judgment. As a result of knowing what awaits those who have rejected Christ, we need to care more for them, knowing that salvation is near and available to all who believe. By nature every person is an enemy of God and seeks to destroy Him or be separated from Him. It is only because of what Christ did that we can hope to become near to God. With regards to other believers, it is important to remember that God did not make us all alike, nor did God give each of us the same spiritual gifts. God has given everyone gifts for the use of building up the body of Christ. As we remember who the other person is, we can hopefully take our attention off of ourselves and remember that the other person needs us near not only to hear the Gospel and possibly receive the grace from God but also to be encouraged by the brethren that they are not alone.

3. What do we need to remember about ourselves?

1 Corinthians **6:9-11**

Romans **7:18-20**

Romans **7:24-25**

Romans **5:6-10**

Romans **6:20-23**

Romans **7:4-6**

Ephesians **2:11-14**

Ephesians **5:8**

Although our own sinfulness is great and destructive, we have been washed by God, chosen by God, sanctified by God, justified by God. We are now new beings being renewed by the Spirit of God to become true and legitimate image bearers of God and of Christ. We are not worthless but

priceless. In light of the reality of who we are, we can be confident knowing that there is no reason to push others away as they need us in order to hopefully to get close to God and Christ.

4. What do I need to remember about love?

Hebrews **2:14-18**

Romans **13:8-11**

1 John **3:16**

John 15:13

1 Corinthians **13:4-8**

1 John **4:7-10**

John 10:17-18

God's style of love is sacrificial at its core and seeks to care more for the other person than themselves. We have been called to follow after the steps of Jesus and lay down our lives for the sake of others. The world is not about us but about Christ.