

Pastor PJ Berner • Compass Bible Church • February 23-24, 2021 • Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

**We Not Me**

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:1-3](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.1-21.4.3). There seem to be parallels with some of Job’s sentiments in the early chapters of Job. Though Solomon is not implying that the oppressed should be suicidal here, he is certainly affirming the idea that for them, nonexistence would be preferable to existence. How have you observed this in your lifetime? Have you ever felt like the oppressed in this scenario? What was that time like in your life? What led to these thoughts?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:4-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.4-21.4.6). If the injustice of verses 1-3 is the cruelty of those who “have” oppressing those who “have not,” how does Solomon bring out the opposite in verses 4-6?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:5-6](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.5-21.4.6). Here Solomon presents us with two responses from the envious man. What are they, and why are each of them dangerous?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:6](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.6). What is meant by “quietness” in the first part of this verse? Consult other Bible translations for help. How is “quietness” different from the actions of the fool in [Ecc 4:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.5)?
3. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:7-12](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.7-21.4.12). What is the biblical principle contained in these verses that is traceable all the way back to the first thing the Lord ever declared “not good” in creation? Why was it “not good” for Adam to be alone?

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.8). Contrast this verse about the single man who works with no satisfaction to Paul’s advice to the unmarried in [1 Corinthians 7:32-34](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.67.7.32-67.7.34). What is different about the focuses in these two passages?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.9-21.4.12). What are the benefits of working with another person that are described by Solomon in these verses? How have you seen these benefits in your life?
3. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:13-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.4.13-21.4.16). This is the scenario of the ultimate man who worked his way to the top, from prison to the throne (v. 14). But what happens to all of his work at the end according to verse 16?
4. Why do you work at the job that you have?
5. What are you doing to make sure that your labors, your work, is not in vain?
6. If you had an opportunity to sit down with a young man, newly married, about to embark on his career, what advice would you give him? How might you use this chapter to counsel him?