

THE LONELINESS OF THE CHRISTIAN

By A.W. Tozer

The loneliness of the Christian results from his walk with God in
an ungodly world,
a walk that must often take him away from the fellowship of good
Christians as well as from that of the unregenerate world.

His God-given instincts cry out for companionship with others of
his kind,
others who can understand his longings, his aspirations, his absorptions
in the love of Christ;
and because with his circle of friends there are few who share his
inner experiences, he's forced to walk alone.

The unsatisfied longings of the prophets for human understanding
caused them to cry out in their complaint,
and even our Lord himself suffered in the same way.

The man (or woman) who has passed on into the divine Presence
in actual inner experience will not find many who understand him.
He finds few who care to talk about that which is the supreme
object of his interest,
so he is often silent and preoccupied in the midst of noisy religious
shoptalk.

For this he earns the reputation of being dull and over-serious,
so he is avoided,
and the gulf between him and society widens.

He searches for the friends upon whose garments he can detect
the smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia out of the ivory palaces,
and finding few or none, he, like Mary of old, keeps these things
in his heart.

It is this very loneliness that throws him back upon God. His
inability to find human companionship drives him to seek in God
what he can find nowhere else.