



Part 4: Together But Uncoupled // Jeff Brodie & Toni Nieuwhof // January 28th, 2024

It's very common for every marriage to end up in a place where you feel like roommates more than spouses. Conflict, a lack of connection, or a pattern of surface interaction are all contributors. But what do you do when you find yourself drifting apart? Another factor can be the way you look at your marriage or relationships in general. This week, we'll look at how to have a healthy view of your relationships with others, whether you are married or not, and give you practical tools for when a marriage feels lonely.

Scripture: [Colossians 2:6-10 NLT](#); [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Completion is found in a relationship with Jesus, and companionship is found in a relationship with others.

Discuss:

1. Your quest for completion through others can set the stage for deep disappointment. Can you think of a time when that's happened to you in a relationship or friendship?
2. Read [Colossians 2:6-10](#). Roots are a symbol of nourishment, and foundations are a symbol of what is core to us. Using these two analogies, Paul encourages us to look for nourishment and satisfaction in Jesus. Why do you think we so often look to people or things outside of Jesus to build our lives on? How have you seen this to be true?
3. How does seeking satisfaction in Jesus improve your ability to be a great spouse, or set you up to be a good future spouse if you are single currently?
4. In verse 10, we see that when we are made "complete through [our] union with Christ," we put him first in every part of our lives. How would that truth change the way you see any relationships, including marriage?
5. From this passage, Jeff emphasized that completion is found in a relationship with Jesus, and companionship is found in a relationship with others. Why do you think we sometimes get this reversed?
6. Toni Nieuwhof shared about how couples sometimes drift apart and suggested steps that can be taken to move towards one another. What did you find challenging about what she said? Is there a step you need to take in your marriage relationship?

7. Read [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#). What stands out to you from this passage? Where do you need to make Jesus a third cord in a relationship in your life?

Moving Forward:

Pick one way you can pursue completion in Christ, and one way you can fight for companionship in your marriage (or another relationship if you are single). Share these with your small group and pray for God's strength for one another.