

CONNECTING
Part One

Thesis: Men connect to God when they connect to other men of faith. Conversely, men will remain disconnected from God as long as they remain disconnected from other men of faith. This group (and this ministry) exists to remedy this problem.

MEN AND THEIR NEEDS

TRUE OR FALSE

Agree or Disagree with the following statements and explain why? If time permits, discuss the follow-up question.

1. **Men are relational beings and need ample relational interaction with other men.**
 - Do you think the average man in our society has enough deep, close relationships with other men?
2. **Men are emotional beings and need to have a safe place to explore and express their feelings.**
 - What conditions would have to exist before a man would consider it an emotionally safe environment?
3. **Men are prone to isolationism, individualism and fierce independence.**
 - In what ways might our culture reinforce this tendency (e.g., in the way it views and values success, masculinity, strength, independence, etc.)?
4. **Men stumble morally when isolated and unaccountable (i.e., when no one is watching and no one cares).**
5. **Men have a “huge capacity for denial, delusion, and compartmentalizing” (John Ortberg) and because of this tendency need other men to help them discover, and hold them to, their higher aspirations and life goals.**

With respect to your present experience of *life-enriching relational interaction* with other men, where would you place yourself on the continuum below?



Discuss the possible benefits that would result from participating with a group of men who had it as their goal to move each other ever further to the healthy side of this continuum.

Closing Statement: Your spiritual health is directly proportionate to your relational health.

Assignment: Be asking God what He thinks should be the next level in your spiritual growth.