

# Choosing Community



Pastor Steve Lee  
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**COMPANY SAYS WORK REMOTELY DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

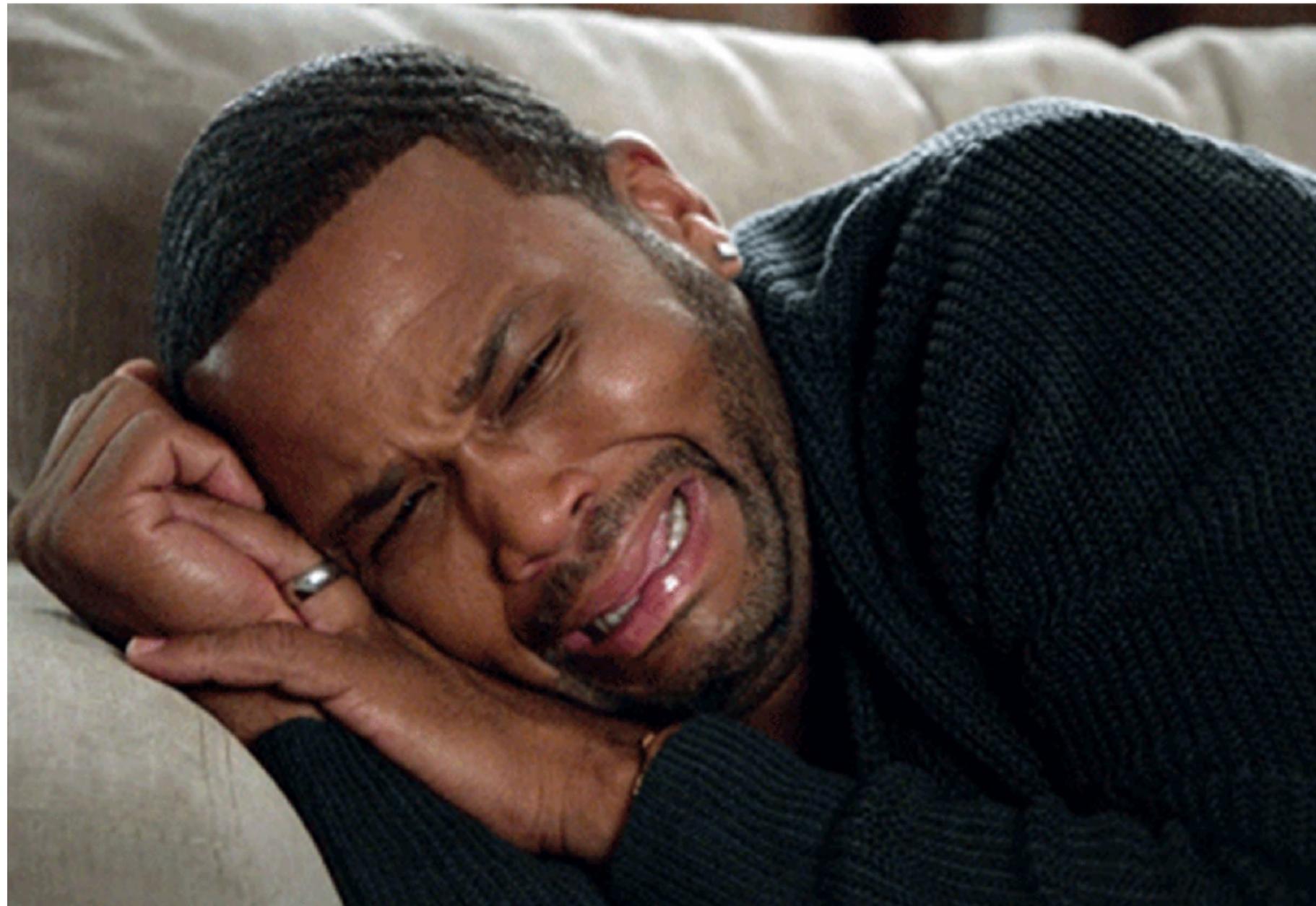


**INTROVERTS**



**EXTROVERTS**

**INTROVERTS, PLEASE CHECK ON YOUR  
EXTROVERT FRIENDS ... WE'RE NOT OK!**



When you find out your normal daily lifestyle is called “quarantine”







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## Dave Goetz

*(Death by  
Suburb)*

While I haven't conducted a national study, my community may boast the nation's most mobile churchgoing members. There are simply so many good options, depending on your life stage and worship preference. ... In many communities, the neighborhood church has been overshadowed by large regional churches. People *commute* to church. If it takes twenty-seven minutes to get to the good preaching and great programs,



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Suburb)*

it's worth it, just as it is to cart your daughter to the better violin teacher two suburbs over. ... Church migration patterns tend to follow whatever church has the buzz—the “more biblical” preacher; the newer, more authentic service with the riveting young pastor who weaves stories using live animals as props and uses technology innovatively ... the burgeoning youth ministry with the exotic mission trips.

**Romans**  
**15:5-7**

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

**1 Thess**  
**4:9-10**

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more

**Colossians**  
**3:13-14**

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



**Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer**

*(Life Together)*

Only that community which enters into the experience of this great disillusionment ... begins to be what it should be in God's sight ... The sooner this moment of disillusionment comes over the individual and the community, the better for both. ... Every human idealized image that is brought into the Christian community is a hindrance to genuine community and must be broken up so that genuine community



**Dietrich  
Bonhoeffer**

*(Life Together)*

can survive. Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community even though their personal intentions may be ever so honest, earnest, and sacrificial. ... Christian community is not an ideal we have to realize, but rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate.

**Proverbs  
18:24**

A man of many companions may  
come to ruin, but there is a friend  
who sticks closer than a brother.

**James  
5:16**

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Proverbs**  
**27:5-6**

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.



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*(Death by  
Suburb)*

Friends provide accountability as an insight that comes with being fully known over time. While we were shopping for a new car, a friend hit me with the cliché, “Dave, you know the price of everything and the value of nothing.” I was in my early thirties, and he had wearied of my thinly disguised envy. I didn’t reply. I couldn’t. I hated



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Suburb)*

what he had just said. The comment dug its heels into my soul, though he has never brought it up again. Years later I still think about what he said that afternoon. I can't explain fully why I can accept a stinging rebuke from a friend or why it still rolls around in my head today, years later.



**Darrin Patrick**



**Darrin Patrick**

I stopped pursuing friendships—another way to say that, I stopped *being known*. And that was the beginning of the end.



# **SUMMARY**

When we experience God's love and acceptance, we can offer it to others becoming a community built on the foundation of the gospel.