

LOVE AND RELATIONSHIPS

June 2013

I've been single a long time, and I'm quite content, thank you. I love traveling alone, setting my own schedule, making my own plans. I can decide to leave early and have a full day, or go back to bed and sleep late. I chose to ride the Mount Washington Cog Railroad in zero visibility and snow, skipped Franconia Notch State Park, and ducked into Quebec between New York and Vermont. I eat what I want when I want to, wear comfortable clothes, talk to the dog and cat, and happily live a self-centered life.

Sometimes I travel with a friend, and we do have good times together. She helps with the route, reads from the tour guides, gets me snacks, and provides interesting conversation and company on long, boring highways.

I do the same at home: set my own schedule, make the commitments I want to make, do pretty much what I choose and interact with friends when I choose to.

Typing that makes me feel selfish and unloving. And that well may be true. From Genesis 2:18 ("It is not good for the man to be alone") on, the Bible makes it quite clear that no one is to be on his or her own. "None of us lives to himself alone, and none of us dies to himself alone" (Romans 14:7).

Even more important, we are to *care* about each other. "In Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:5), and "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). And this body is supposed to "grow and build itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:16). "This is My command," Jesus told His disciples, "love each other" (John 15:17). And Peter added, "Above all, love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

My way of living is selfish unless I use what I'm learning to help others. And that's not easy, especially for one as set in her ways as I am. But Lord, help me, please. Help me to love Your people after all, You love me, and You've given them love for me!

