

## The Church is Not Seen as Addressing a Major US Problem

By Bob Young

Where would you go if you were lonely? Where would you seek socialization, friends, and connections? For many Christians, the answer is the church. Christians would like to think that others also see us as a loving fellowship where connections and friendships are easy and loneliness is banished.

A March 2023 Barna highlight suggests otherwise. While churches have a unique opportunity to reach people who are dealing with loneliness, adults in the US are more likely to seek out other places when lonely. We Christians may see ourselves as communities where God's love is always available, but those around us have doubts.

The graphic at right shows that those surveyed would choose a location in their own home, nature, a family member, a friend, a park, or a quiet public location over the church.

What could we do to let potentially lonely people know about the love they could find in the church?

