

## **5—Sin is Spiritual Adultery—Crafting a Holy Life with Intimacy With God. (Mark 12:28)**

***The Greatest Weapon Against Sin is Intimacy With Christ***

**Training children:** Relationship with us: fear-favor-fellowship.  
Relationship with God: fear-favor-fellowship. The strongest incentive for obedience is love-intimacy.

**Christian Life Best Described/Understood as Relationship.** The essence of the Christian life is relationship, but that has been used so frequently that I am afraid it's potency had been greatly diluted. Let me show you how the Bible talks of Christianity in the language of a relationship, a friendship, as intimacy:

**The Central truth and it's placement:** in my personal experience and my opinion, the most powerful way to defeat temptation is to see sin as a threat to my fellowship with God and displace it with communion.

**The language of devotion in Scripture.** In the Bible and in Christian history Terms: fellowship. Communion. Koinonia. love. intimacy. Abiding. Resulting in joy, love, peace, hatred of evil

**Psalms 4:7** *You have put gladness in my heart, More than in the season that their grain and wine increased.(abound)*

**Psalm 16**

**Psalm 27**

**Psalm 42**

**Psalm 63**

**Psalm 73**

**Psalm 91**

**John 15:4** *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

**1 Corinthians 1:9** *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**2 Cor 6:14-7:1**

**Philippians 3:10** *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death*

**1 John 3:6** *Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.*

**The Language of Devotion/Intimacy in Christian History. Saints of God—lovers of God through the centuries.**

**Augustine** ‘Thou movest us to delight in praising Thee; for Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee?’

**Paschal** “There once was in man a true happiness of which now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings, seeking from things absent the help he does not obtain in things present. But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself.” Maybe you have heard that expressed like this: **“There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man.”**

J.I. Packer says that the Puritans differ from evangelicals today because, with them: communion with God was a great thing; to evangelicals today it is a comparatively small thing. The Puritans were concerned about communion with God in a way we are not. The measure of our unconcern is the little that we say about it. When Christians meet, they talk to each other about their Christian work and Christian interests, their Christian acquaintances, the state of the churches, and the problems of theology - but rarely of their daily experience of God.

**Here's how Jonathan Edwards described the relationship between the spiritual good enjoyed in fellowship with Christ and the thirst for more that it produces:** Spiritual good is of a satisfying nature; and for that very reason, the soul that tastes, and knows its nature, will thirst after it, and a fullness of it, that it may be satisfied. And the more he experiences, and the more he knows this excellent, unparalleled,

exquisite, and satisfying sweetness, the more earnestly he will hunger and thirst for more...

**Edwards** *Seeing that reason does so undeniably evidence that saints shall, some time or other, enjoy so great glory, hence we learn that there is undoubtedly a future state after death, because we see they do not enjoy so great glory in this world. . . . [A]ll the spiritual pleasure they enjoy in this life does but enflame their desire and thirst for more enjoyment of God; and if they knew that there was no future life, [it] would but increase their misery, to consider that after this life was ended they were never to enjoy God anymore at all. How good is God, that he has created man for this very end, to make him happy in the enjoyment of himself, the Almighty.*

**Owen (Communion with God).** *The Holy Spirit produces joy in the hearts of believers directly by himself without using any other means. As in sanctification he is a well of water springing up in the soul, so in comforting he fills the souls and minds of men with spiritual joy. When he pours out the love of God in our hearts, he fills them with joy, just as he caused John to leap for joy in Elizabeth's womb when the mother of Jesus approached. This joy, the Holy Spirit works when and how he wills. He secretly injects this joy in to the soul, driving away all fear and sorrow filling it with gladness and causing it to exult, sometimes with unspeakable raptures of the mind. –John Owen*

**Charles Spurgeon,** *When a man pants after God, it is a secret life within which makes him do it: he would not long after God by nature. No man thirsts for God while he is left in his carnal [i.e., unconverted] state. The unrenewed man pants after anything sooner than God: . . . It proves a renewed nature when you long after God; it is a work of grace in your soul, and you may be thankful for it.*

**Spurgeon used the language of Song of Solomon** continuously at the Communion table... you may not agree with a allegorical understanding of SoS, but it illustrates the fact the Spurgeon used the language of intimacy to describe devotion to Christ.

**A. W. Tozer** O God, I have tasted Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee; I long to be filled with longing; I thirst to be made thirsty still.

**Francis Chan.** “My one objective is to get you to stop believing that anything on this earth will bring you more pleasure than knowing God intimately and be so convinced of that that you pursue him more than

anything. This is more important than getting rid of pain...or even temptation... Be open to the possibility that a relationship with God could be better than getting rid of that pain."

**(ill) Wesley sleeping on the floor** because communion is sweeter than comfort. If you are deeply in love you would rather be in Gary, Indiana with your lover than enjoy the beauty of Hawaii alone.

This was the language of devotion, the language of communion that the puritans and the heirs to the puritans used. This is the language that we should learn to use to describe our experience with God.

### **What does communion look like? A Day in the life of a person who is learning to abide in Christ...**

Do you have communion  
Do you long for deeper communion  
Do you have a longing to begin a relationship with Christ?

On the 4<sup>th</sup> I went to ben in pain. I was groaning all night. In the morning I opened my Bible to the Psalm of the Day and the first words were:

**Psalms 5:1-2** *Give ear to my words, O LORD; consider my groaning.  
[2] Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray.*

### **(ill) Truth in your file... or in your life?**

- Have you experienced anything like that?
- Do you know the sweetness of communion with Christ?
- Is that how you talk about God?
- Is that what you believe about God?
- Is that how you feel about God?

When you do you have a great stone to slay giants of sin in your life. This is like nuclear warfare against sin...

Do you know Him? Do you long to know Him?