

Redemption Through the Scriptures

Gaining a Clearer Picture of Christ and His Saving Work

Deeper Fellowship with God

#14

NASB used Paul J. Bucknell

Redemption Through the Scriptures

The Program

The Purchase

The Pleasure







"I want that!" "I'll pay for that!" "I'll enjoy that!"

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God's present purposes for the church

- ✦ (1) God shares His work with us so that we can carry out the purposes for which He has designed us.
- ✦ (2) God shares His holiness with the church so that she can be near, blessed and His good representative.
- ✦ (3) God shares His love with the church so that she can thrive in His loving presence and love others.
- ✦ (4) God shares His intimacy with the church so that they can thoroughly enjoy each other.

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Starting off great: ideal relationships (Garden)

"And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8).

"Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Very good

→

Amazingly better

"New things have come!"

✦ What are your relationships like?

Suspicion, hostility, superficiality?

Honesty, joy, friendship, mutual respect and lots of good conversation?

Intimacy, the sharing of another's life



When you become so blind that the maker
of galaxies and ruler of nations and knower
of all mysteries and lover of our souls
becomes boring, then only one thing is left
— the love of the world. For the heart is
always restless. It must have its treasure: if
not in heaven, then on the earth.

– John Piper



Intimate relationships: Abiding in Him (John 15)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, **that you bear much fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and **that your joy may be made full**" (John 15:7-11).

- Picture of intimacy is **two-sided** :
"You abide in Me." "My words abide in you."
- Intimacy (shared heart, knowledge and trust (i.e. faith)) bears special fruit (8) and privilege.
- Basics: maintenance, constancy, persistence:
keep commandments, abide in His love, etc.
- Extra goal: abounding joy. (Shorter Westminster Catechism)

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man? =>

A. Man's chief end is to **glorify** God, and to enjoy him forever.



Conclusion: Be loved and love - Koinonia

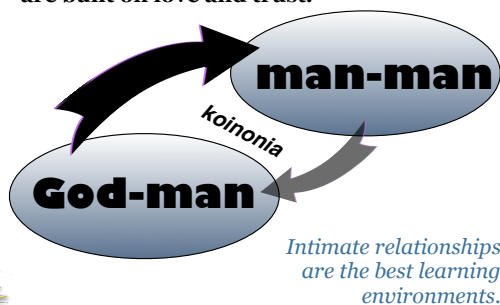
"I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they **may all be one**; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me. 22 "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they **may be perfected in unity**, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and **didst love them**, even as Thou didst love Me" (John 17:20-23).

- Hints of intimacy everywhere
- God's purpose is to draw us closer
- He cared for relationship problem through Jesus
- Our resolve to throw off everything holding us back from Him
- And to allow this relationship to help us heal our earthly ones
- Embrace God's purpose for us to love one another



The Process of Developing Love

Interpersonal relationships
are built on love and trust.





Discussion questions



- ★ Good communication is a mark of intimacy. Do you tend to shelter your life or share yourself with others? Rate yourself and explain.
- ★ Spiritual disciplines like quiet times (daily meeting God in His Word and prayer) reflect how we relate to God. How often do you privately meet with him each week? How do you find those times?
- ★ What is an example of a time when you have sensed that inner joy from your intimate times with the Lord? What was special about that time? What might be holding you back from experiencing such times?

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Intimacy is more than a being in a common location but shared hearts and minds. Sharing a common place does not bring about that trust and love that is needed to delight in sharing one's dreams with another.

Intimacy, the
sharing of
another's life

"My beloved is mine,
and I am his" (SS 2:16)

