



# **A HOUSE THAT GRACE BUILT**

## **Chapter 5: The Design of Intimacy**

### **THE DESIGN OF INTIMACY**

- **We have reservoirs in our hearts with the different capacities and purposes to house love.**
- **The distinct nature of intimacy designs helps us understand the sanctity of God's relational purposes**
- **Boundaries of relationships are God ordained – if we manipulate or misuse these boundaries there are bound to be negative consequences**
- **The failure, sin and violations of our relationships aren't because of design – but because humans by default walk in brokenness.**

## THE TEMPLE

- The OT temple was designed to restore people to mankind – but it created a system that highlighted the distinction between holiness and sin.
- The three levels of the temple reflected the varying levels of intimacy requirements – what needed to occur to be in God's presence.
- Blood sacrifice was required to atone for sins – this was one of the main temple functions
- The exacting nature of the processes and laws of OT demonstrate the fierceness of God's holiness
- The OT temple was replaced by the heart of the Believing Christian. We now house a spiritual temple where God can manifest Himself in our lives.

## HOLY OF HOLIES

- The temple had a holy and reserved area called the Holy of Holies that offered God an actual dwelling place where He can manifest His "Shekinah Glory".
- It was the closest thing on earth of experiencing and encountering God. However, because it was so holy, it could only be entered by the High Priest who had performed a variety of purification rituals.
- In our lives, the Holy of Holies is located within our hearts. When this room is filled with God, we have the opportunity experience His actual presence.
- The presence of God is the place where we experience our authentic identity, empowerment to overcome, unconditional love and a holy awareness of our need for repentance and sanctification.



## INTIMACY WITH GOD

- Living intimately is a merging; we develop the same affections, desires, interests, plans dreams and goals, yet we are uniquely and totally two separate people.
- In our merging together with the heart of Jesus, we in no way lose our unique and personalized thumbprint.
- Purification is the essential ingredient of all forms of intimacy because sin always brings separation.
- There is necessity in the 24/7 cleansing process available to us – it maintains intimacy

## FAULTY INTIMACY STYLES

- We misunderstood God's expectations – we saw our Christian "functions" as intimacy
- Since we had never experienced anything deeper, we honestly believed that we were doing our part.
- God didn't want us to "do" for Him (law) ,but to know Him (grace.)
- We put something or someone in God's place (idols)

## IDOLS OF THE HEART

- When we place someone or something in God's place, we unknowingly place them in our "Holy of Holies"
- Normally, we aren't consciously choosing to be dependent on an idol; it becomes a direct result of having deficiencies that we wrongly and inappropriately try to fill.
- The problem that arises is that in our marriage union to the Lord, He will not and cannot share the sacredness of the position granted to Him as our Husband.
- When we possess idols, we in essence commit spiritual adultery against Him. In doing so, we don't change His love for us at all, but we hurt Him and prevent the power of His Spirit from being activated within us.
- He cannot thrive in our hearts where our affections lie for something or someone else more than Himself.

## INTIMACY MINUS RELIGION

**Our own sense of religiosity can oftentimes be the GREATEST barrier to accessing intimacy – we may not be as extreme as Paul – but if we were able to get honest, we oftentimes find security in our own external righteousness and appearance; and this is the very dynamic God seeks to dismantle.**

*Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! Philippians 3:7-10*



## HOW GOD SEES US

- **Psalm 139 – we are known intimately, meticulously, and with the awe and affection of the God that actually designed us by His own hand. He knows our days, our thoughts, our feelings, our burdens, our violations, sorrow – He has shared in everything we have gone through.**
- **The battle isn't ever how God actually sees us, but how we see ourselves and perceive He sees us.**
- **He has a room in His heart for us – a place where He's written us into His eternal plan and called us by name. Meditate on that!**