



Part 3: Breaking the Barriers to Intimacy

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What is intimacy?

A close, familiar, and usually affectionate or loving personal relationship with another person or group.

We tend to respond to intimacy in one of three ways:

We run from it, we wait for it, or we pursue it (or something like it)

Song of Songs 1:7

Why should I be like a veiled woman beside the flocks of your friends?"

Genesis 3:7-8

They realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves... and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Hiding and covering became the norm with Adam and Eve, and is still the norm for us today.

The reward of intimacy is worth the risk and hard work.

Proverbs 13:12

Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.

Psalms 40

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.

Are you waiting for God himself, or are you waiting for something else?

Song of Songs 3:1-3

All night long on my bed I looked for the one my heart loves; I looked for him but did not find him. I will get up now and go about the city, through its streets and squares; I will search for the one my heart loves.

So I looked for him but did not find him. The watchmen found me as they made their rounds in the city. "Have you seen the one my heart loves?"

We can't go about life hoping that intimacy will happen;
we must pursue it.

Intimacy doesn't happen when we know about God.
It happens when we know God.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart

Small Group Questions

1. In social settings, are you more often a chatterbox, polite guest, wallflower, social butterfly, or escape artist?
2. In what context (work, friendships, family, church, etc.) are you most tempted to hide your true self? Why do you think that is?
3. No one likes to wait. What "wait" is the most annoying to you or the hardest to deal with?
4. Is there something you're waiting on God for right now? Can you share it with us?
5. Do you struggle with the tension between knowing about God and actually knowing God? Have you found any practical ways to get to know God better?
6. How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?