
True Intimacy

God's Plan for Us

“There are three things that are too
wonderful for me,
four that I do not understand:
the way of an eagle in the sky,
the way of a snake on a rock,
the way of a ship in the sea,
and the way of a man with a woman.”

–Proverbs 30.18-19

What is Intimacy?

- ❖ Latin *intimus* - inmost / innermost
- ❖ Close familiarity or friendship
- ❖ Cosy, private, relaxed relationship
- ❖ Knowledge of a subject: “*an intimate knowledge of Medieval art*”
- ❖ Sexual intercourse, Genesis 4.17: Cain was “intimate/knew” his wife and she conceived...

Some Biblical Texts on Intimacy

- ❖ Psalms 16 Closeness (intimacy) with God
- ❖ II Sam 7.10-17 God had an intimate father(Ab) relationship with Israel
- ❖ Mark 14.35-36 Abba, Father! Jesus maintained an intimate relationship with God.
- ❖ Matt 19.4-6 Marriage: One flesh, joined by God...

“I always let the Lord guide me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad
and my whole being rejoices;
my body also rests securely.
For you will not abandon me to Sheol;
you will not allow your faithful one to see decay.
You reveal the path of life to me;
in your presence is abundant joy;
at your right hand are eternal pleasures.”

–Psalms 16.7-11

“I will designate a place for my people Israel and plant them, so that they may live there and not be disturbed again. Evildoers will not continue to oppress them as they have done ever since the day I ordered judges to be over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

“ ‘The Lord declares to you: The Lord himself will make a house for you. When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father (AB) , and he will be my son.** When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals. But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever.’ ””

– *II Sam 7.10-17*

“He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.””

– *Mark 14.35-36*

““Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that he who created them in the beginning made them male and female,” and he also said, “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate.””

–Matt 19.4-6

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Our Body

- ❖ I Cor 6.12-20 – Christ's body and our bodies

““Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything. “Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will do away with both of them. However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Don’t you know that your bodies are a part of Christ’s body? So should I take a part of Christ’s body and make it part of a prostitute? Absolutely not! Don’t you know that anyone joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For Scripture says, The two will become one flesh. But anyone joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.”

– *I Cor 6.12-20*

Our Body

- ❖ I Cor 6.12-20 – Christ’s body and our bodies
- ❖ We have become one with Christ’s body at our spiritual birth
- ❖ The implications of sexual contact are profound – more than we fully understand...
- ❖ Our sexuality affects many *bodies*:
 - ❖ Our own body
 - ❖ Our sexual partner – In the Movie *Vanilla Sky*, Cameron Diaz says: “*Don’t you know that when you sleep with someone your body makes a promise whether you do or not.*”
 - ❖ Christ’s Body
- ❖ Our sexuality cannot just be our private affair – it implicates Christ’s Body

Christ and the Church

- ❖ Ephesians 5.29-33 One flesh

“No one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, since we are members of his body. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.”

– *Ephesians 5.29-33*

Christ and the Church

- ❖ Ephesians 5.29-33 One flesh, yet again
- ❖ Christ and the Church: an intimate relationship
- ❖ We need to think deeply about this parallel – the mystery is profound
- ❖ Ask ourselves: does my marriage / sexuality and the marriages around us inspire and inform understanding of Christ and the Church?

Thoughts about Intimacy

- ❖ Sex is the most intimate of human interactions
- ❖ Sex requires vulnerability, trust, commitment, risk
- ❖ Biblically, sex creates a bond that is not easily broken
- ❖ Sex engenders intimacy: knowledge, familiarity, sense of privacy and shared experience, but it is not all there is to intimacy
- ❖ There is a sacredness / holiness to this level of intimacy that we need to understand and nurture

God's Plan for Us

- ❖ A great sex life is **not** God's key objective for our lives!
- ❖ Intimacy with God is his plan : Jer 9.24, Psalms 42.1-4
- ❖ Joy in intimacy with God is his plan : Eccl 2.26, Ps 87.7
- ❖ Our sexuality and desire for intimacy create unsatisfied longings, but only God can satisfy our deepest needs for intimacy, to be truly known – our desires often destroy God's plans for intimacy with us
- ❖ Our sexuality and marriages can teach us profound things about God and the Church, but it is not an automatic outcome!

““ This is what the Lord says:
The wise person should not boast in his wisdom;
the strong should not boast in his strength;
the wealthy should not boast in his wealth.
But the one who boasts should boast in this:
that he understands and knows me —
that I am the Lord, showing faithful love,
justice, and righteousness on the earth,
for I delight in these things.
This is the Lord’s declaration.”

– *Jer 9.23-24*

“As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so I long for you, God.
I thirst for God, the living God.
When can I come and appear before God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
while all day long people say to me,
“Where is your God? ”
I remember this as I pour out my heart:
how I walked with many,
leading the festive procession to the house of God,
with joyful and thankful shouts.”

– *Psalms 42*

“For to the person who is pleasing in his sight, he gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and accumulating in order to give to the one who is pleasing in God’s sight. This too is futile and a pursuit of the wind.”

– *Eccl 2.26*

“And it will be said of Zion,
“This one and that one were born in her.”
The Most High himself will establish her.
When he registers the peoples,
the Lord will record,
“This one was born there.” Selah
Singers and dancers alike will say,
“My whole source of joy is in you.”

– *Psalms 87.5-7*

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