

# THE VILLAGE CHURCH

## *Intimacy with God*

Developing a God-  
Centered Life

*“... How to Develop a  
Heart after God”*



**Teachers: Sam Giampapa, Dave Torres & Mark Hurlbert**



# Intimacy with God

## *Developing a God-Centered Life*

- **An Orientation**
  - Image-Bearer
  - Idols of the Heart
  - Pleasing God
  - “Stilling” Our Heart for Intimacy
- **Building the Foundation**
  - God’s Transcendent & Personal Attributes
  - Looking to the God of Love
  - Looking to the God of Mercy
  - Looking to the God of Faithfulness
  - Looking to the God of Power
  - Looking to the God of Wisdom
- **Situational Awareness On the Battlefield**
  - Our Environment
  - Our Flesh
  - Our Hearts

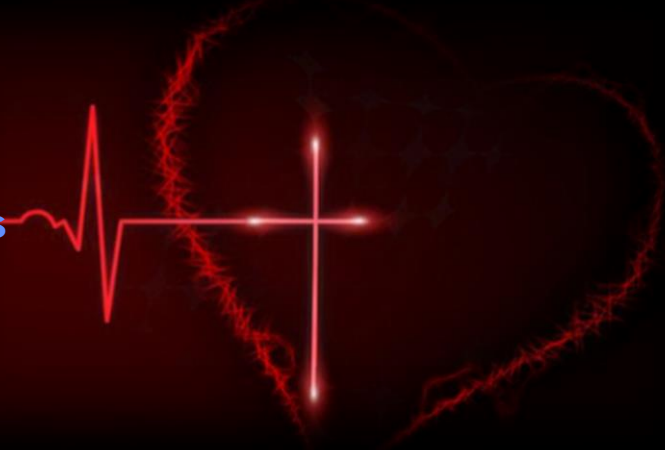




# Intimacy with God

## *Developing a God-Centered Life*

- **God's Discipline**
  - The Discipline of the Lord
  - The Rotten Fruit of Discipline - Negative outcomes
  - The Good Fruit of Discipline - Positive outcomes
- **Our Disciplines**
  - Reordering My Private World
  - The Word of God
  - Prayer
- **Identification of Inhibitors**
  - Understanding the Nature of Sin
  - Understanding the Nature of Repentance, Forgiveness & Restoration
  - Identifying Stronghold Idols
  - Tearing Down Strongholds



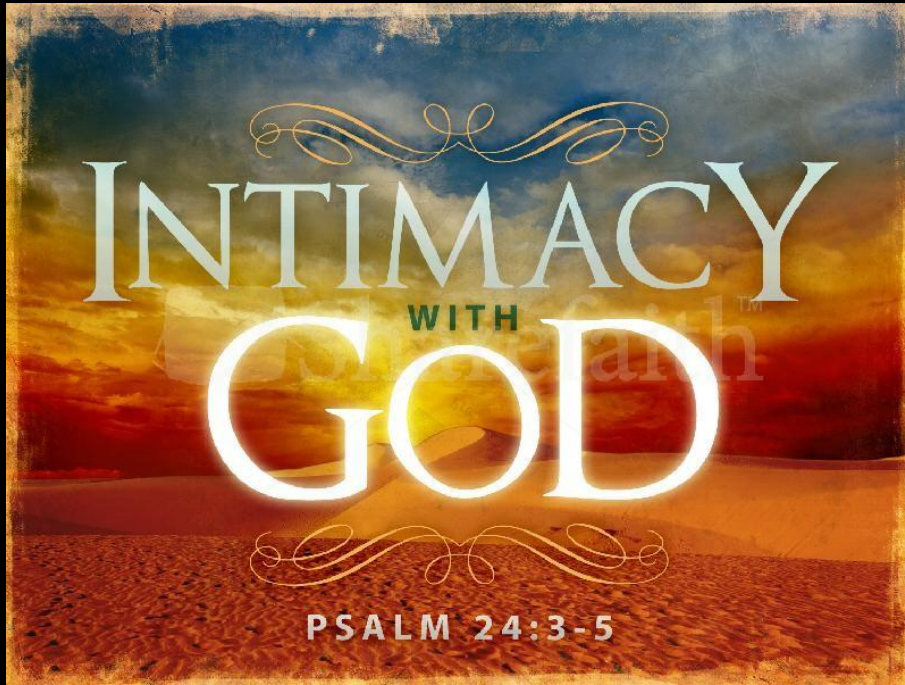


# Intimacy with God

## *Developing a God-Centered Life*

- **“Walk This Way”**
  - Old Testament Examples to Follow
  - New Testament Examples to Follow
  - Historical Examples to Follow
- **In-Class Testimonies**
  - Sharing Personal Testimonies





# **An Orientation Image-Bearer**

## ***Intimacy with God*** **Developing a God-Centered Life**



Going After God With All We've Got!

# An Orientation



**Today's Learning Objective:** *That we learn to position our heart to experience an ever-increasing intimacy and fullness in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*



# Today's Outline

- Ready:
  - Our Goal
  - Our Resolve
  - Our Nature
- Set:
  - What does intimacy with God really mean?
  - God's original design for intimacy between Him and us.
  - The nature of intimacy with God
- Go:
  - A call to action

# Ready

- **Not just any change will do. This is personal!**
- **Our Goal: It's a journey with an \_\_\_\_\_ outcome ... an ever-increasing intimacy with God.**
- **Our Resolve: It's a journey that will involve learning, sharing, introspection, choices (some easy ... some challenging) and \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Our Nature: It's a journey that will have to face problems/challenges; and the Bible reminds us that *our greatest problems are never around us; they are \_\_\_\_*!**
  - Mark 7:21-23
  - James 4:1



## Verse

**Mark 7:21-23,**

**For from within, out of the heart of men,  
proceed the evil thoughts, fornications,  
thefts, murders, adulteries, <sup>22</sup> deeds of  
coveting *and* wickedness, as well as deceit,  
sensuality, envy, slander, pride *and*  
foolishness. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things proceed  
from within and defile the man**

# Verse

## James 4:1

**What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?”**

# Ready

- **Not just any change will do. This is personal!**
- **Our Goal**: It's a journey with an \_\_\_\_\_ outcome ... an ever-increasing intimacy with God.
- **Our Resolve**: It's a journey that will involve learning, sharing, introspection, choices (some easy ... some challenging) and \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Our Nature**: It's a journey that will have to face problems/challenges; and the Bible reminds us that *our greatest problems are never around us; they are \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_!*
  - Mark 7:21-23
  - James 4:1

# Set

- **Intimacy defined – Intimacy with God is an on-going experience of ...**
  1. **Closeness (Ps 139).**
  2. **As a result of our \_\_\_\_\_ with Him (Jn 17:20-21).**
  3. **The Lord is infinite in every way (Rev 1:8) and because He is, we can always draw \_\_\_\_\_ to Him (James 4:8).**
  4. **He makes available to each of us an ever-increasing, infinitely deep \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 3:17-18) that can never and will never be exhausted;**
  5. **A \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 11:28-30) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 4:13)**
  6. **That God intends every Believer to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Pet 1:2-4), regardless of our circumstances, both in this life and \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 8:38-39).**

# Verse

**Ps 139: 1ff, 24b**

**... and lead me in the everlasting way.**

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# Verse

## Jn 17:20-21

**I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.**



# Set

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# Verse

**Rev 1:8**

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**

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# Verse

**James 4:8**

**Draw near to God and He will draw near  
to you...**

# Set

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# Verse

## Eph 3:17-18

**<sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**

# Set

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# Verse

## Matt 11:28-30

**Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**

# Set

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# Verse

## Eph 4:13

**until we all attain to the unity of the faith,  
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,  
to a mature man, to the measure of the  
stature which belongs to the fullness of  
Christ.**

# Set

- **Intimacy defined – Intimacy with God is an on-going experience of ...**
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# Verse

## 2 Pet 1:2-4

**Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; <sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature ...**

# Set

- **Intimacy defined – Intimacy with God is an on-going experience of ...**
  1. **Closeness (Ps 139).**
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# Verse

## Rom 8:38-39

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**



# Set

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  1. **Closeness (Ps 139).**
  2. **As a result of our \_\_\_\_\_ with Him (Jn 17:20-21).**
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# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Gen 1: 26-28**
  - **Man was/is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's creation.**
    - The only part of creation made in "His/God's own image/likeness".
    - The only part of creation given "ruling/oversight" responsibility.
  - **Bearing/displaying the "image of God" is a \_\_\_\_\_.** A permanent distinctive established by the Lord. (cf. Esther 8:5-8).
  - **Created in the "image of God" does not signify a physical representation of God - God is Spirit; therefore being transformed into the "image of God/Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, with practical evidences following.**

# Verse

## Gen 1: 26-28

**<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**

# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Gen 1: 26-28**
  - **Man was/is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's creation.**
    - The only part of creation made in "His/God's own image/likeness".
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# Verse

## Esther 8:5-8

***... a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be revoked.***

# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Gen 1: 26-28**
  - **Man was/is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's creation.**
    - The only part of creation made in "His/God's own image/likeness".
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  - **Created in the "image of God" does not signify a physical representation of God - God is Spirit; therefore being transformed into the "image of God/Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, with practical evidences following.**

# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **As an “Image Bearer” we are to be “God-like” for His glory; to be that, we need to have a proper view of God. – A. W. Tozer said, “The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of Him.” - The Knowledge of the Holy**
  - **Transcendent Attributes**
  - **Communicable Attributes**



# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Transcendent Attributes** meaning those attributes of God that are “not or less shared” with us:
  - (Jn 5:26), God is \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Ps 102:25-27), God is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Ps 90:2), God is infinite.
  - (Ps 139:7-10), God is everywhere always/Omnipresent.

# Verse

**Jn 5:26**

**For just as the Father has life in Himself,  
even so He gave to the Son also to have  
life in Himself.”**

# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Transcendent Attributes** meaning those attributes of God that are “not or less shared” with us:
  - (Jn 5:26), God is \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.
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## Verse

### **Ps 102:25-27**

**Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. <sup>26</sup> Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed. <sup>27</sup> “But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end.**

# Set

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- **Transcendent Attributes** meaning those attributes of God that are “not or less shared” with us:
  - (Jn 5:26), God is \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Ps 102:25-27), God is \_\_\_\_\_.
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  - (Ps 139:7-10), God is everywhere always/Omnipresent.

# Verse

**Ps 90:2**

**Before the mountains were born or You  
gave birth to the earth and the world, even  
from everlasting to everlasting, You are  
God.**

# Set

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  - (Jn 5:26), God is \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Ps 102:25-27), God is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (Ps 90:2), God is infinite.
  - (Ps 139:7-10), God is everywhere always/Omnipresent.

## Verse

### Ps 139:7-10

**Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand will lead me, and Your right hand will lay hold of me.**



# Set

- God's original design for intimacy
- **Communicable Attributes** meaning those attributes of God that were shared us at the inbreathing.
  - **Spiritual life and capacity** – God is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ - **Moral and ethical will.**
  - **Truth** - God is \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Potential for “truth” knowing – God is Truth (Rom 1:18-19a)
    - Potential for “truth” recognizing – God revealed in creation (Rom 1:19b-20)

# Set

- God's original design for intimacy

**Genesis chapter 2:25, *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.***

**- unashamed intimacy with one another and  
God. IT WAS \_\_\_\_\_ INTIMACY!**

# Set

- The nature of intimacy
  - Intimacy with God is a by-product, an outcome, a result of God-like-ness; or we would say godliness. In its fullness, it is the very Image of God (namely Jesus Christ) being displayed (2Cor 3:18),
    - “<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

# Set

- So the nature of ...
  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. It's not some fanciful, made-up, emotional ecstasy. If God is true, then intimacy with God is \_\_\_\_\_. (Eph 4:22-24)
  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. It's not some strategic bundle or set of human standards; man has no more power to change himself than to create himself! It is divinely \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Pet 1:3-4a).
  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. It is not some kind of magic carpet ride, "cloud-9", do what's comfortable, bed-of-ease life style. It is fervent in spirit. (Rom 12:9b-13; Ps 119:128).
  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:10)

# Verse

## Eph 4:22-24

***22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

# Set

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# Verse

## 2 Pet 1:3-4a

***<sup>3</sup> seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature...***

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  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:10)



# Verse

## Rom 12:9b-13

***Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; <sup>11</sup> not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; <sup>12</sup> rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, <sup>13</sup> contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.***

# Verse

**Ps 119:128**

***Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts  
concerning everything, I hate every false way.***

# Set

- So the nature of ...
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  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:10)

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  - *Intimacy with God is* \_\_\_\_\_. (Col 3:10)

# Verse

## Col 3:10

***<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.***

# Go

- Call to Action!

Call To Action	Eph 4:22-24	James 1:19-25	Spirit Enabled Outcome
Cooperative Renewal	"lay aside the old self ... and put on the new self."	"putting aside all filthiness ... wickedness"	<b>Our sinful nature is restrained, and our intimacy with God (Christlikeness) is increasingly manifested.</b>
Ransacking The Truth and Quieting Your Heart in The Truth	"be renewed in the spirit of your mind" ... "which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."	"in humility receive the word implanted" ... "But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty" ... "this man will be blessed"	<b>A blessed intimacy and increasing Christlikeness will result.</b>

# Verse

## Eph 4:22-25

**<sup>22</sup> that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, <sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, <sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.**

# Verse

## James 1: 19-25

**<sup>19</sup> *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup> But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. <sup>25</sup> But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.**



# Homework Week#1 (Quest Commitment):

- Sign and return commitment card (3x5)  
“I Willingly Decide To...”
- Or if you're a creative writer ... write it out in the form of poetry - Eph 2:10, “workmanship” ποίημα,*n* (poy'-ay-mah).

# Verse

## Eph 2:10

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**

**“workmanship” ποίημα,*n* (poy'-ay-mah)**

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