

True Intimacy

Proverbs 3:32 “For the devious are an abomination to the Lord; But He is intimate with the upright.”

The word intimate gets used a lot, but do we really know what it means? True Intimacy involves the mixing of our life with another's, a mingling of souls, a sharing of hearts. This is something we all long for because it is how God made us. We were designed to connect. It is letting others see the real you with all the good and the bad and you being allowed to see them in the same way.

This past April, I celebrated Life, now 10 years since my first bypass surgery and yes, I have had two. 3 years after the triple bypass I had a quadruple, I now have 7 bypasses around my heart, and these experiences changed my focus. You see God could have taken me home during one of those surgeries, but He did not, and I realized I am not Superman any longer.

God started to show me how to live a life with Him and with others in a whole new intimate way. I let others see me for who I really am, I have taken off the mask and I have found a few, who will take their mask off as well and the times we have shared are indescribable.

There is a saying “that we are born with 2 lives --- and we start living the 2nd life when we realize we only have one life to live.”

The biggest obstacles to intimacy are fear and a wounded heart. Fear and wounds cause us to hide and not want to be known; if you find out how messed up, I am, you will not like me anymore, but the truth is everybody is messed up to some degree and we are all alike.

We also hide from God, I know it seems silly to say this, we all know we cannot hide from God, but we try it anyway. We feel so much shame sometimes because of our sin and brokenness we ask ourselves how a Holy God could love me.

But true intimacy grows out of the knowledge that we have nothing of value to offer a Holy God, we must come to the end of ourselves, and that is a humbling place to be, but it is the only place to begin.

James 4:6 Says this.

**“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”**

A good example of humility and transparency is the hospital gown. When you first check into the hospital you keep the gown tied up nice and tight in the back but after a few days you will be walking around with the back wide open because you do not care anymore, because you have been poked and prodded and they have seen all your stuff anyway. We let other people see the real you.

When we humble ourselves, we start to allow God to show us **who** we are in HIM, not what the world says we are. We let Christ define us.

So, now 10 years since my first bypass surgery and now just turning 59 years old, I do life differently. I do not have time to hide anymore, there is a lost and dying world out there that needs to see the real me and the real you.

We call it being an authentic Christian, not a perfect Christian but a humble soul who sees people where they are and loves them with all their junk; a believer that is Humble and puts the needs of others ahead of themselves.

Brothers and sisters do not wait for a life-threatening experience to start living a life of true intimacy like I did. I am very hardheaded, and God had to use a spiritual 2x4 on my head not just once but twice, do not let it be the same for you.

So, I ask the question, what does your walk with the Lord and friendships look like now and how is it going to look in the years to come? You have heard it said many times, if you keep doing the things you have been doing and expecting different results, you are a fool. We are designed for intimate relationships and not fear and hiding.

I will close with this. I dance when ever I get a chance with the special women in my life. I dance at weddings and restaurants, if there is music, even if no one else is dancing. I used to be afraid of what others would think, but I am not concerned with that anymore. I dance with my wife, my daughter, and granddaughter every chance I get. I never know if that will be my last dance, and I am not going to let fear keep me from those incredibly special moments. My prayer for you, if you are not doing it already, is to start living an authentic life, a life of True Intimacy with Our Lord and with Others.