

Sex, Romance & The Glory of God

Sermon Notes & Community Group Discussion
Sunday, October 5, 2014

Threats to Intimacy

Preaching: Brad Peterson

Aloneness is the greatest enemy of intimacy.

Threats to Intimacy:

1. Unmet relational needs
2. Fighting dirty
 - Criticism
 - Contempt
 - Defensiveness
 - Stonewalling
3. Concealing the truth
4. Bitterness

Dealing with Threats:

1. Repent
 - Confession
 - Contrition
 - Change
2. Forgive

Faith in Jesus is the greatest ally of intimacy.

Community Group Questions

1. What did you hear God saying to you from this sermon? What do you need to do about it?
2. Where do you find your mind wandering when you're struggling with feelings of aloneness (fantasizing about an "ideal" mate or sexual encounter, hurting someone, hurting self, material possessions, etc.)? Share how actualizing those thoughts would ultimately let you down.
3. Where do you see yourself falling prey to the threats of intimacy shared in the sermon? What other threats do you fall prey to?
4. In what ways might you be fighting "dirty"?
5. Share what your greatest relational needs are (examples: acceptance, appreciated, respected, secure, comfort, attention, encouragement). How could you express these positively to your spouse (singles, consider your closest friends)?
6. In what specific ways does Jesus satisfy the intimacy you are looking for? (Example: I long to feel accepted by important people, and so I look to Jesus, the KING of kings, who saw me as worthy to give his life for and grant me an inheritance.)
7. Homework for married couples (singles, consider your closest friends)?:
 - a. Take time alone to write your responses to the following questions.
 - My greatest relational need is to feel
 - I have hurt my spouse and our marital intimacy by
 - I have been hurt by my spouse by.....
 - b. Create a space that is comfortable and you'll not be interrupted for at least an hour. Share and listen to one another's responses from above. **DISCLAIMER:** Be eager to understand & empathize with the other person's needs and hurts. Admit your wrongs, ask for forgiveness, and ask for ways you can be better at meeting one another's relational needs.



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