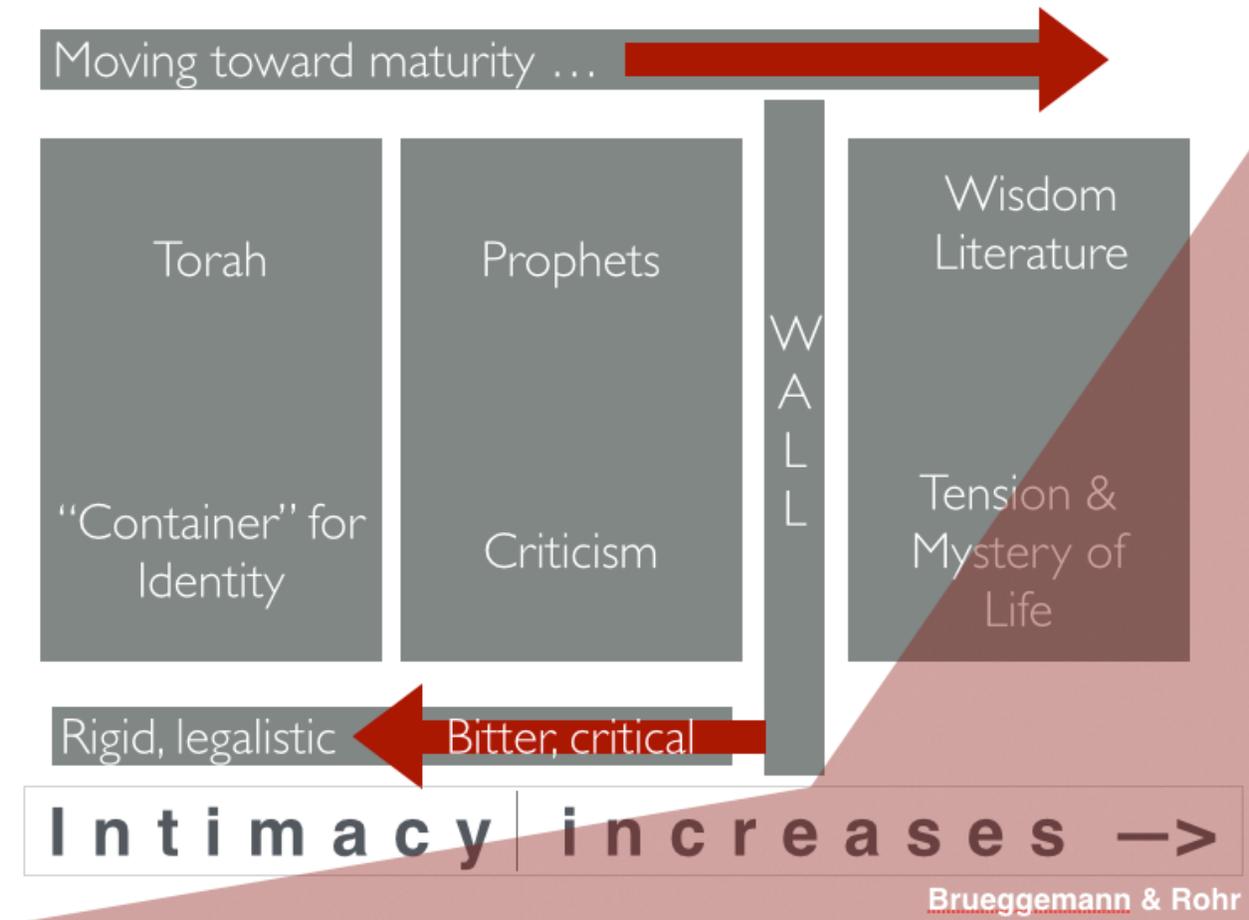


How did Jesus Model Intimacy & Maturity? Observing Him Lights the Way for Us



Where is intimacy? It's throughout the process, but it changes. It can become exponentially deeper after/as we get through The Wall.

Let's examine how Jesus modeled intimacy and maturity.

During His Quiet Years (age 1-30)

These are hidden years, quiet in the Scriptures aside from a few references. What was He doing? Among other things, He was growing in maturity and practicing intimacy with His Father and the Holy Spirit.

He grew up simply with a large family and was poor (Mark 6:3). He learned that abundance was not in possessions, but in a heart surrendered to His heavenly Father (Luke 10:21, John 10:10).

He practiced obedience and learned as He suffered (Hebrews 2:10). He always did what pleased His Father (John 8:29).

He mastered temptation (Hebrews 2:18 and Genesis 4:7). He lived in the freedom of a sinless life (John 8:31-36).

He practiced forgiveness, gained relational skills, and began to “learn people.”

He learned not to trust the praise or flattery of men (John 2:24).

He learned that God detests the things man esteems (Luke 16:15) and was not caught up in prosperity, materialism, or using others for Himself. He learned to live for God’s approval, for His Father’s YES, and not for the applause of people. He didn’t play games or wear masks, and He learned to recognize when others did.

He read the Scriptures and learned what He was to do, how He was going to die, what His life and death would be like, and He was determined to fulfill every part (Ps 22, Is 53).

He practiced 1-saying what the Father gave Him and 2-doing what the Father told Him to do (John 14:9) so that ultimately He could say if they had seen Him, they had seen the Father.

He understood that He was God’s Beloved, dearly loved, affectionately respected. He learned the sound of His Father’s loving voice

During His Ministry

He knew His Father’s voice so well that when God spoke about His love and approval of Jesus aloud during Jesus’ ministry, Jesus said the voice wasn’t even for Him personally - He was fine without the thunder and voice! It was for the people who were nearby, that they might believe (John 12:30). **Intimacy is a rock-solid knowing. It’s not just a voice saying, *do this, do that*. It’s a continual presence, a *being with*, that makes you settled and secure. You’re not alone. God is within you. Forever.**

He gathered people around Him, yet He still practiced solitude. **Intimacy was both quiet and communal** (Mark 1:35-38, Matthew 4:18-22). Even when people needed Him, He slipped away for time with His Father.

Jesus knew by experience that trust is a key to intimacy. When you trust God, you can focus on bringing the life and light of God to others. “Seek first the Kingdom of God, and all things

He did not try to control others, but rather, invited them into dialogue and thoughtful choice (rich young ruler, Luke 18:18, Mt 19, Mk 10). **Intimacy is an invitation.**

He consistently said that He and God, His Father, were one, and prayed we would experience this same intimacy (John 10:30, John 17). Jesus was fully known, secure and in motion on behalf of His Father for the sake of us. **Intimacy secures and animates us to do & be what God has called us to do & be.**

He brought LIFE everywhere He went, but that took many forms: touch, anger, healing, gentleness, forcefulness. When Jesus faced opposition, He spoke truth with love and ferocity (Luke 7:36-50). **Intimacy can look like a scalpel or a bandage.**

When Jesus was tired from the demands of people-oriented ministry, He got up early and prayed (Mark 1:21-37). **Intimacy trumps physical weariness.**

When Jesus faced major decisions, He stayed up late and prayed (Luke 6:12-16). **Intimacy advises.**

When Jesus faced the temptation to use a woman, He instead cared for her soul (Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-8; John 8:1-11). **Intimacy maturely, wisely honors others.**

When Jesus faced the insecurities and failures of His own disciples, He didn't baby them, but He did point them to the Spirit and Truth (John 14,15). **Intimacy strengthens us to have a backbone.**

When Jesus faced hypocrisy, He called it out in honest confrontation, fearlessly challenging those in power and clearly stating consequences (Matthew 23:13-33). When Jesus faced trickery, He set His mind on listening to the Spirit for the perfect answer (Luke 20:20-26). **Intimacy equips us to stand in confrontational situations.**

When Jesus faced challenges, He "set His face like flint" and followed through to the end (Isaiah 50:7, Luke 9:51, John 11:7,8,16, Philippians 2:5-11). **Intimacy fortifies us to faithfulness.**

During the Wall: intimacy is costly.

When He faced **betrayal**, He forgave (John 20:19-23, Luke 23:34).

When Jesus faced **pain**, He cried out to His Father, and kept moving forward in obedience, even until His death (Matthew 26:36-46).

When Jesus faced the **cross**, He chose to honor His Father and their plan of salvation and take the pain (John 12:23-28; Matthew 27:46; Luke 22:42-44; 23:46).

He chose to suffer for the sake of others.

He chose to be mocked and harmed, and set His mind on thinking about the joy of having us as His family.

Intimacy is costly. Intimacy is worthy. Intimacy is 100% in, whole-hearted, full-out, masks off, take-me-I'm-yours love that will die for you/that you will die for.

After the Cross

He invited people to know Him through His scars. Thomas, John 20. **Intimacy is intensely personal.**

Intimacy is a full-hearted allegiance.

It's a BEING WITH that goes deeper than what we see on the surface.

It's being rooted and nourished by the Trinity in such a way that we know who we are and can walk forward into living with an eye toward loving others well.

Jesus' thoughtful and fearless and costly intimacy was rooted in a dance of shared affection within the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit longs to do this in us,
rooting us in God's affection,
encouraging us in our obedience,
and praising with us as we finish our race.

This is what He calls you to. This is what you were meant for.

Pursue this with your life, and I challenge you, don't settle for cheap imitations.
Let's pray.