

PAIN

GOD'S GATEWAY TO EMPATHY AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS

SESSION 8

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PAIN/EMPATHY – THE GATEWAY TO RELATIONSHIP

- **Other Centeredness - this starts with God**
- Luke 10:27 – Greatest Commandment (Love God & Love your neighbor)
- Romans 12:9-21 - Genuine Christian love defined
- Galatians 5 – Fruits of the Spirit
- Ephesians 4:31-32 – Being kind & gracious, and demonstrating love (empathy) towards our primary heart connections

PAIN & SUFFERING IS GOD'S PLAN FOR UNDERSTANDING THE GLORY OF THE CROSS CONT.

- Psalm 68:19 – God upholds us in our afflictions/burdens
- 2 Cor. 12:9 – Our suffering makes us dependent
- Psalm 51:17 – God pours out healing & help on the broken & contrite heart
- Psalm 119:66-67, 71 – Suffering leads us to discernment & knowledge
- Tada, Joni Eareckson, *Making Sense of Suffering*

PAIN & SUFFERING IS GOD'S PLAN FOR UNDERSTANDING THE GLORY OF THE CROSS CONT.

- Romans 5:3-4, Heb. 12:10-11 – 1 Cor. 3:12-13, Psalm 119:67, Job 23:10 – Suffering helps to uproot sin in my life and brings about obedience in my life
- James 1:2-4 – Suffering increases my faith
- 2 Cor. 4:10, Rom 8:28 – The greatest good is our growth in Christlikeness & dying to self
- Psalm 51:6 – God desires truth in my innermost being
- 1 Thes. 5:18 – Suffering teaches me to give thanks in times of sorrow
- Tada, Joni Eareckson, *Making Sense of Suffering*

IN OUR SHAME (REJECTION), DON'T SIN

- Shame is the traumatic exposure of nakedness – an inner ugliness is revealed
- Unrighteous shame always leads to blaming self or others; it's a false protection against the fear of rejection and the ultimate fear of abandonment
- Shame is a sense of deficiency or foolishness BUT:
- By design, shame exposes our foolish trust in a god who is not God
- Allender, Dan B., *The Cry of the Soul*