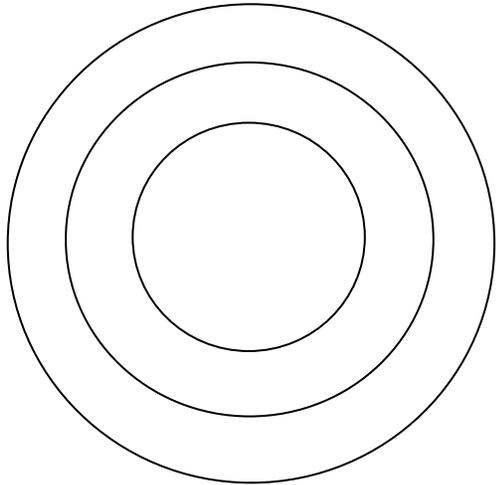


3) _____ Your _____ ... In _____.

Your Three Selves



One of the greatest steps you can take toward living in community is this: *Move toward having someone in your life who knows all about you.* Of course, we can't do this all at once. Sometimes out of emotional neediness or bad judgment or hurt somebody will share too deeply and too fast with another person they don't know. There are certainly warning signs to watch for that will tell you when to slow down with a person or a small group: *Inappropriate use of humor. ... Judgmental statements or premature advice. ... Violating a confidence.*

(John Ortberg, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them*)

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round hobbies and little luxuries, avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all dangers and perturbations of love is Hell. (C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*)

All passages, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version of the Bible. You can download the free YouVersion Bible app that includes the NIV translation at your favorite app store.

February 16/17, 2019
Michael Yearley

Vulnerability *The Path To Intimacy*

The Desert

Loving People *Doing Relationships A Whole New Way*

It is impossible to overemphasize the immense need we have to be really listened to, to be taken seriously, to be understood. ... No one can develop freely in this world and find a full life without feeling understood at least by one person. (Dr. Paul Tournier)

The first important technique is to master the art of good talk. This requires just two simple tools. The first is a listening ear. Some people are especially skilled at opening others up. They readily elicit intimacy because they listen well. ... The second tool for creating friendly conversation is self-disclosure. Weighed and measured in appropriate amounts, self-disclosure is the primary ingredient for potential friendship. In fact, no decent friendship can be made without it.

(Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott, *Relationships*)

Loving People

David And Jonathon

1 Samuel 18:1-4

David stayed in the desert strongholds and in the hills of the Desert of Ziph. Day after day Saul searched for him, but God did not give David into his hands. While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh. (1 Samuel 23:14-18)

We were built for intimacy, this linkage of souls, but most of us men rarely experience it.

(Gordon McDonald, *When Men Think Private Thoughts*)

People with deep and lasting friendships may be introverts, extroverts, young, old, dull, intelligent, homely, good-looking; but the one characteristic they always have in common is openness. (Alan Lay McGinnis)

Loving People

The Path To Vulnerability

1) _____ ... With _____.

Experience has taught me that I connect best with others when I connect with the core of myself. (Brennan Manning, *Abba's Child*)

2) _____ Your _____ ...

And _____ Your _____.

Because we know in our hearts that this is not the way we're supposed to be, we try to hide our weirdness. *Every one of us* pretends to be healthier and kinder than we really are; we all engage in what might be called "depravity management." ... From the time of Adam in the Garden of Eden, sin and hiding have been as inevitable as death and taxes. Some people are pretty good at hiding. But the weirdness is still there. Get close enough to anyone, and you will see it. *Everybody's normal till you get to know them*. And yet ... The yearning to attach and connect, to love and be loved, is the fiercest longing of the soul. Our need for community with people and the God who made us is to the human spirit what food and air and water are to the human body. That need will not go away even in the face of all the weirdness. (John Ortberg, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them*)