

How's Your AIM?

Intimacy

10/22/18

Last week we considered the necessity of building our lives on truth. Without truth we have no foundation for making decisions and particularly no way to evaluate right from wrong. That leads to chaos in individual lives and in any form of long-term relationships.

An accurate understanding of what God tells us leads us to the truth that God loves us, and more than anything He desires an intimate, ongoing relationship with us. In fact, the one absolute requirement for intimacy is accuracy. We will never know intimacy without accuracy. Intimacy requires truth.

The basic tenant of the gospel of Jesus the Christ is that God loves sinful mankind. So much so, that He sent His Son to redeem us. (John 3:16-18) That redemption involves much more than simply being saved *from* something (eternity without God). It also involves being saved *to* something (eternal relationship with God).

We tend to forget the overwhelming truth that God desires intimacy with us. John 17:20-23 is an amazing description of the unity and intimacy that God desires with each of us. It is the ongoing interpersonal relationship that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit experience and enjoy. Often I find myself settling for much less.

Paul said in Philippians 3:7-10 that his desire was to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. He considered all things in life worthless compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus. I have to ask myself, "Is that really what I want?" If it is, then everything else begins to "make sense". If knowing Jesus involves more of Him and less of me, then Romans 8:28-29 "makes sense". James 1:2-8 "makes sense". Asking for wisdom is in the context of trials perfecting my faith. Faith is dependence on Christ. The writer of Hebrews tells us that since we have a great high priest who understands, the way is paved for us to draw near to the throne of grace. (Hebrews 4:16)

Living in intimate fellowship with almighty God also results in intimate fellowship with His people. Think through John 14-17 and hear God's heart for His children to be in intimate relationship with each other as they are in intimate relationship with Him. Consider what Paul says in Colossians 3:12-15. Is that how we desire, and aspire, to live? Our intimacy with Christ is verified by and measured by our relationships with one another. (John 13:35)

In essence, the proof is in the pudding. It is easy to declare we love God. It is even easy to convince ourselves that we love God. But is that what is declared by our interaction with others?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What makes intimacy with God difficult?
2. How does learning about God impact our relationship with God?

3. How would you answer someone who asked what it means to have fellowship with God? (Revelation 3:20)

4. How would you answer someone who asked what it means to have fellowship with one another? (1 John 1:1-7)

5. How would you evaluate your intimate relationship with Christ and with others within the body of Christ? What steps might you take to enhance those two things?