

Intimacy

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE INTIMACY WITH GOD?

PSALM 1:2

Spending time with God leads to intimacy.

- ² But they delight in doing everything the LORD wants;
day and night they think about his law.

PSALM 103:1-22

This whole psalm describes how we can have an intimate relationship with God.

Theme: God's great love for us. What God does for us tells us what he is really like.

Author: David

A psalm of David

PSALM 103

- ¹ Praise the LORD, I tell myself;
with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the LORD, I tell myself,
and never forget the good things he does for me.
- ³ He forgives all my sins
and heals all my diseases.
- ⁴ He ransoms me from death
and surrounds me with love and tender mercies.
- ⁵ He fills my life with good things.
My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
- ⁶ The LORD gives righteousness
and justice to all who are treated unfairly.
- ⁷ He revealed his character to Moses
and his deeds to the people of Israel.
- ⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious;
he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love.
- ⁹ He will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.
- ¹⁰ He has not punished us for all our sins,
nor does he deal with us as we deserve.
- ¹¹ For his unfailing love toward those who fear him
is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.
- ¹² He has removed our rebellious acts
as far away from us as the east is from the west.
- ¹³ The LORD is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
- ¹⁴ For he understands how weak we are;
he knows we are only dust.
- ¹⁵ Our days on earth are like grass;
like wildflowers, we bloom and die.

- 16 The wind blows, and we are gone—
as though we had never been here.
- 17 But the love of the LORD remains forever
with those who fear him.
His salvation extends to the children’s children
- 18 of those who are faithful to his covenant,
of those who obey his commandments!
- 19 The LORD has made the heavens his throne;
from there he rules over everything.
- 20 Praise the LORD, you angels of his,
you mighty creatures who carry out his plans,
listening for each of his commands.
- 21 Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels
who serve him and do his will!
- 22 Praise the LORD, everything he has created,
everywhere in his kingdom.
As for me—I, too, will praise the LORD.

HOSEA 2:16-20; 1 JOHN 3:1

God reaches out to us, offering an intimate relationship—as intimate as husband and wife or father and child, a commitment that is forever, a love relationship such as we have never known before.

¹⁶“In that coming day,” says the LORD, “you will call me ‘my husband’ instead of ‘my master.’”¹⁷O Israel, I will cause you to forget your images of Baal; even their names will no longer be spoken. ¹⁸At that time I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and the birds and the animals that scurry along the ground so that they will not harm you. I will remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, so you can live unafraid in peace and safety. ¹⁹I will make you my wife forever, showing you righteousness and justice, unfailing love and compassion. ²⁰I will be faithful to you and make you mine, and you will finally know me as LORD.

¹See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children, and we really are! But the people who belong to this world don’t know God, so they don’t understand that we are his children.

MATTHEW 5:8

Intimacy involves coming to God with a clean heart and pure motives.

⁸God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

The Lord God, Creator of the universe, singing songs about you! What a portrait of a loving, intimate God.

⁷For the LORD your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you by singing a happy song.”

GENESIS 28:15; EXODUS 33:14; PSALM 23:1-6; MATTHEW 28:20

The Lord is with us, as close as we want him to be, as long as we let him be, until the end of life. These are vows of permanent intimacy with us.

¹⁵What's more, I will be with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. I will someday bring you safely back to this land. I will be with you constantly until I have finished giving you everything I have promised."

¹⁴And the LORD replied, "I will personally go with you, Moses. I will give you rest—everything will be fine for you."

- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I have everything I need.
- ² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.
- ³ He renews my strength.
He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.
- ⁴ Even when I walk
through the dark valley of death,^o
I will not be afraid,
for you are close beside me.
Your rod and your staff
protect and comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a feast for me
in the presence of my enemies.
You welcome me as a guest,
anointing my head with oil.
My cup overflows with blessings.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me
all the days of my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR TRUE AND LASTING INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE?

PROVERBS 5:15-19; PROVERBS 18:22; PROVERBS 31:10-12; 1 CORINTHIANS 7:3-5;
EPHESIANS 5:22-33

True and lasting intimacy in marriage is based upon the following: (1) faithfulness; (2) rejoicing in one another; (3) letting each satisfy the other in love and sexuality; (4) accepting one's mate as a blessing from the Lord; (5) recognizing the great value of one's mate; (6) recognizing how much one's mate can truly bring delight and satisfaction; (7) living happily with each other; (8) talking together about the Lord and spiritual things; (9) giving thanks to the Lord together; (10) submitting to each other; (11) loving each other as passionately as Christ loved the church and died for it.

¹⁵Drink water from your own well—share your love only with your wife.^o ¹⁶Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with just anyone?^o ¹⁷You should reserve it for yourselves. Don't share it with strangers.

¹⁸Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹She is a loving doe, a graceful deer. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love

²²The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the LORD.

¹⁰Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies. ¹¹Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. ¹²She will not hinder him but help him all her life.

³The husband should not deprive his wife of sexual intimacy, which is her right as a married woman, nor should the wife deprive her husband. ⁴The wife gives authority over her body to her husband, and the husband also gives authority over his body to his wife. ⁵So do not deprive each other of sexual relations. The only exception to this rule would be the agreement of both husband and wife to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time, so they can give themselves more completely to prayer. Afterward they should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt them because of their lack of self-control.

²²You wives will submit to your husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of his body, the church; he gave his life to be her Savior. ²⁴As the church submits to Christ, so you wives must submit to your husbands in everything.

²⁵And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her ²⁶to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's word. ²⁷He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. ²⁸In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife. ²⁹No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body, which is the church. ³⁰And we are his body.

Promise from God: 1 Chronicles 28:9

⁹“And Solomon, my son, get to know the God of your ancestors. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and with a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and understands and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.