

True Intimacy

Ephesians 4:16 “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Intimacy means having a close, personal relationship, and to know another and to be known. In God’s case, it means to experience a relationship free from lust, envy, insecurity, and fear of rejection. Yes, that was lost at the fall, but also what can be gained in this life by faith in what Jesus accomplished by his death, burial, and resurrection.

Idols and sin are ways that people attempt to make “false” intimacy by trying to avoid even the possibility of pain induced by fractured relationship(s).

What’s the cure? Giving and receiving true love that is more powerful than this world has to offer; Love that is truly out of this world, and that springs from the heart of God.

Craig Lockwood wrote, “The body of Christ is intended to be a place where we can experience the transforming love of God. We need the priestly ministry of others in the body of Christ. God has chosen His body to help mediate the indwelling presence of Christ through the Holy Spirit and prayer. God will use other Christians to whom we open our hearts to bring His healing grace to us.”

When I read this quote, my heart leaped because the answer is right! When the body of Christ lives out its true identity; people are set free by the intimate transforming presence of God that’s experienced. But it shuttered because some of the worst abuse and rejection I’ve seen have wrongly been labeled “church”.

You’ve got to have intimacy with God, or you’ll spiritually die. God is intimate with us through three tangible ways of the Holy Spirit: His Word, His Creation, and His Church. I personally don’t believe that you can experience true intimacy with God without letting all three minister God’s presence.