

“Overcoming the Fear of Intimacy”

Ref. Luke 7:36-50

Intimacy, the deep inward desire to know someone and be known by them, especially God, eludes most of us because of our fear of rejection.

“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” Luke 5:8

How well do we know the love of God?

*“¹⁷..And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
Ephesians 3:17-19*

What is the key to growing in intimacy with God and abiding in His abiding love?

Forgiven Much, Love Much

I. Recognizing our many sins.

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” Luke 7:47

II. Receiving forgiveness for our many sins!

“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.” Jonah 4:2b

*“It has taken me 30 years to understand that the admission and forgiveness of sin is the essence of the New Testament”
Sebastian Moore*

III. Resulting in that you will love much!

Application: Thus, come often to the cross and recognize our many sins that we may receive forgiveness of our many sins resulting in a deep, passionate and intimate love of our Savior!

Small Group Questions

1. Describe a time when you experienced rejection because you reached out to someone.
2. In our story today the woman was described as someone who sinned much. How do you see yourself in light of that standard?
3. Recognizing sin is a means to an end. That end is receiving forgiveness and rejoicing in God more passionately. What keeps you from doing this?
4. What is the connection between intimacy with God and intimacy with others?