

SERMON TITLE: *Made For Intimacy With God*

SERMON SERIES: Made For This

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:27-28, John 1:1-4

BIG IDEA: WE WERE MADE FOR INTIMACY WITH GOD

#1 The very essence of God is loving community and coordinated creativity.

- Genesis 1:26-27
- The one true God is one God but three distinct persons.
- John 1:1-4
 - Jesus the only begotten Son who existed in the bosom of the Father
 - The Father made the world through the Son
- During his earthly ministry Jesus expressed his oneness with Father
 - John 10:38, John 10:30, John 5:19-20, John 17:5
- God the Spirit active at creation
 - Genesis 1:1-2

#2 We were made with the relational capabilities to join God's loving community and partake in His coordinated creativity.

- Why? So that we could share in his joy and glory.
- Verses that speak to the reality that we were made for intimacy with God.
 - Genesis 2:7
 - Genesis 3
- Verses that speak to the reality that we were made to join God's coordinated creativity.
 - Genesis 1:28
- Walter Brueggemann quote:

It is important that of all the creatures of God's eight creative acts, God speaks directly only to human creatures. The others have no speech directed toward them at all. By contrast, in 1:28, God speaks to the human creatures, and in verse 29, he twice addresses them directly, "you." This creature has a different, intimate relation with the creator. This is the speech-creature par excellence. This is the one to whom God has made a peculiarly intense commitment (by speaking) and to whom marvelous freedom has been granted (in responding).¹

#4 Intimacy with God is a basic human need.

¹ *Genesis Commentary* by Walter Brueggemann p. 62.

- What is cut off from Christ simply cannot grow and bear the lasting spiritual fruit of “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

#5 Steps for Cultivating Intimacy with God

- A. Hold the conviction that intimacy with God is essential for human flourishing.
- B. We must train instead of trying harder.
- C. Find a training partner.

Discussion Questions:

1. It is hard for us to grasp God’s personal life before He made the world. What thoughts, feelings, and questions come to mind for you when you consider that, as John 1 asserts, God has always existed in loving community and creativity?
2. What are the ramifications of believing, as Atheists assert, that we are a random accident of chemicals as compared to the ramifications of believing that God, who is love, created us to share in his love?
3. Do you believe intimacy with God is essential to a human life flourishing? Do you also hold this conviction?
4. Would you say that Jesus is your main thing or merely one of your hobbies? Why or Why not?
5. What obstacles are in your way when it comes to cultivating intimacy with Jesus?
6. During your day, when are you most aware of God’s presence with you?
7. Think about a time of great growth in your walk with Jesus as well as great intimacy. What was your rhythm of life like? Who did you spend time with? What spiritual disciplines did you engage in? What did you have to say “no” to so that you could say “yes” to Jesus?
8. What is the difference between trying hard and training in the spiritual life?
9. In regards to this message, what is God saying to you and what will you do about it?
10. Do you have a training partner? If not, who might be one for you?