

The Masculinity of True Intimacy

I don't think about intimacy. I just don't. I figure I'm just okay with all that stuff. I am joined in with about four billion men on this planet that steer me away from that touchy-feely kind of thing. It is not a groupthink, it's just that we are not wired that way. Beneath the rough exterior is usually a pretty rough interior. We are driven by things to do, not things to think about. We don't think about depriving the world of that deer or that fish, or pondering gas mileage in a hybrid car. My hair will never be in a bun and I'll never honor your pronouns. I'd rather go with friends to a sports bar as opposed to a poetry reading by the disenchanting. Cage fighting over "The Price is Right," We don't think we are missing anything important. Our joys are found in our country, our family, and our brothers in arms.

Yet, there are times when I have wondered if there is something more to life. Something more than what I have now. I don't need to stop and smell the roses on my way to work, I just think that the life I have built for my family is missing a few pieces. It's kinda like occasionally needing a wise friend just to talk with in confidence.

The holdup is simple, who would you trust? Who would understand? Who knows all that you've been through? Consider God. He knows your every thought. Knows when you get up in the morning. Knows the sorrows, knows the joys of your life. He has been patiently waiting a long time to hear from you. He made you and wants to spend time alone with you.

God is just as concerned with your life on this planet as He is with your eternal, forever life. Your life is a journey; the ups and downs, and the treks through the valley of the shadow of death, sometimes quite literally. Yet, with God it is a journey without end. God wants to walk with you through it. With God in your life, there are no empty spaces in your soul. Psalm 16:11 offers: "You make known to me the path of my life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right Hand are pleasers evermore."

First, I think you have to be honest with God. If you don't know the Lord, then tell Him you want to know Him and be known by Him. Our God is immeasurably kind, incredibly loving, and truly wants to have a relationship with you. You know, the "talk every day" kind of relationship. It begins easy enough. Just say, "God, I need help." Go to a place where only you and God can talk. A quiet place. Speak aloud even though He knows your words before you even say them. Talk openly and frankly with the God of the universe.

God can take from you the things that are heavy; things that you can't handle; things that are weighing you down. God is saying to you, "let me handle this." There is only one pathway to God, and it's lighted with faith and humility. No matter how you live your natural life, it will not bring you closer to your spiritual life. It takes very little human effort to fall on your knees, where prayer begins. It is the paradox of life that to win the battle for your soul you must surrender to Him. Our spiritual life is where we meet God in a very intimate way. No pretense. Nothing to hide. Full of emotion and grace. Humble because God knows everything about you.

Psalm 139: 1-4 says: *O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, Lord, you know it altogether.*

Is your intimacy with God put on hold as you deal with the life situations of the day? It reminds me of the Navy Bosun's mate that ran to the ship's Captain and said, "Sir, we are sinking." The Captain replies, "don't interrupt me, I'm dealing with a huge hole on the port side." Do we put God on the backburner until we work out our issues by ourself? Do we see Jesus as a simple man; a prophet, a great healer? Or, do we see Him in the most intimate way? God coming to walk with us daily, to save us, and to bring us to heaven forever. Very real. Very personal.

Psalm 63: *"my soul thirsts for you. My body longs for you."* Do we turn to God only when our natural life is so tough that we need help from God to restore our spirits? Or, do we have a daily conversation that allows us to be guided in our natural, earthly life by our spiritual relationship with Him? You may come to Christ without any barriers, literal or in your hearts. Very real. Very personal. Any time. He is ready.

Intimacy with God is completely honest. It is not just that He knows all your secrets, but He knows all your secrets and still loves you. Why would any of us just barely get through another day when we could spend each day with the King? Do we think that just getting through another day on earth is what God has planned for us? I think not.

"I love you O'Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies." Psalm 18:1-3

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