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**Topic: CJ's City Values:**

**Texts: John 17:1-4 and Romans 8, 1,15,16f, 28, 30, 33, 35ff**

☐ *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:*

☐ *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*

☐ *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

☐ *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.*

☐ *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> ...**15**For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.<sup>[g]</sup> And by him we cry, "Abba,<sup>[h]</sup> Father." **16**The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **17**Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

☐ ***28**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him,<sup>[j]</sup> who<sup>[k]</sup> have been called according to his purpose....**30**And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.*

... **33**Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

... **35**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36**As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>[l]</sup> **37**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[m]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## INTRODUCTION:

### DIVINE INTIMACY

*Welcome to CJ's City, a vibrant, multicultural Church in the heart of London. As you will find at the heart of all we do are our Core Values.*

*We value our relationship with God through the person of Christ.<sup>1</sup>*

- Renewing and Expanding to the mind (Rom 12:2) T
- Abasing to self
- Comforting to the Soul.<sup>2</sup>

### Renaissance: Moral, Cultural and Spiritual

Knowing Christ Jesus is not mere intellectual assent, or just knowing the facts. One can know a great deal about God without much knowledge of Him, One can know a great deal about godliness without much knowledge of God.

Divine Intimacy is knowledge gained through experience.

#### TRIPLE E EXPERIENCE:

Instant- Spiritual (Romans 1-4), Gradual- Soulical (5-7) and Final – Physical (Romans 8)

This knowledge is the Knowledge that Jesus prayed about in John 17:3 (*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent*)

This knowledge transforms one's life completely and entirely.

#### Is this Attainable?

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<sup>1</sup> CJ's City, Mekki, Julio Ryan (Pastor's welcome)

<sup>2</sup> Knowing God, Packer J.I. pp.13-14

Intimacy with God is a hard thing to attain. The word "**intimacy**" carries with it the aspects of a relationship with someone where you are **vulnerable (open to), loving, trusting**, etc.

To have an intimate relationship with God means that the deepest part of you is having a relationship with a deep part of God.

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart (Spirit/Inner Man) and with all your soul (Mind, Will and Emotions) and with all your strength (Physical). Deut 6:5*

Of course, we cannot fathom the deepest part of God, but He lowers himself down to our level and reveals a part of Himself that only the Christian (through the cross of Christ) can enjoy. In addition, in heaven, this intimacy will not be hindered by sin.

### **The Perfect Model: The Trinity (True Intimacy)**

God is a Trinity of persons:

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit.

Therefore, our intimacy with God (and with each other) is ultimately a reflection of God's intimacy within the members of the Godhead. This means that intimacy is an essential part of the very nature of God and because we are made in His image, it is natural to us as well. This is why we are capable of intimacy with others and with God. It is in our nature.

### **Earthly Example**

Our intimacy with God first began in the Garden of Eden, when God walked with man (Gen. 2

3). It was something that God desired. As we know, Adam sinned and the intimacy with God was lost.

But, God had a plan and He covered Adam and Eve with animal skins and shedding blood in the process (typifying the sacrifice of Christ in the future) so that the fellowship with mankind could be restored.

This was realized at the cross where Jesus became sin on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:17) and bore our sins in His body (1 Pet. 2:24).

Therefore, we are able to come to God through Jesus our mediator (1 Tim. 2:5).

### **Fellowship**

Since Jesus is God in flesh, our mediator, this means that the intimacy we have with God is with Christ. In fact, we are "called into fellowship with His Son, Christ Jesus" in 1 Cor. 1:9.

The word "**fellowship**" in the Greek is "**koinonia**," which is translated in the KJV as "**communion**" in 1 Cor. 11 in reference to the communion supper.

It is interesting that communion is the place where we accept the ultimate vulnerability of God in Christ who humbled Himself by becoming susceptible to death.

In this, I think, is the indicator to true intimacy with God: humility.

As Christ was humble to the point of death, so we too must be humble to the point of death; that is, death to ourselves, our selfish desires, our personal wants.

When compared to God, our purpose should not be to see what we can get from Him. It

should be to glorify Him and to love Him.

Pride seeks its own. Humility seeks others. Isn't that what intimacy is, the seeking of another in the deepest sense? How can we do this if we are proud?

### **A Privilege**

Intimacy with God is a privilege freely given to us by Christ in His sacrifice on the cross.

He removed our sins so that we might dwell with God.

Therefore, if there is sin in your life it will hinder your fellowship, your intimacy with God.

Ask Jesus to reveal your sins to you so that you might repent of them and not hinder the fellowship of intimacy that God so lovingly desires with you.

We can never exhaust knowing God<sup>3</sup>

**Conclusion:** Daniel 11:32

*"...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."*

**The results of knowing God are:**<sup>4</sup>

- Those who know God has great energy for His Kingdom business
- Those who know God have great thoughts His Being, Wisdom, Might, Works and Truth
- Those who know God have great courage (Name, Works, Witness and Word) our courage is a measure of our Experiential Knowledge.
- Those who know their God have great contentment in God (This brings a peace that surpasses all understanding, giving us full assurance- Rom 5:1 and then in Rom 8:1,

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<sup>3</sup> J I Packer

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pp.21-52

16f, 28, 30, 33, 35ff, nothing can separate us from the love of God- he is our Abba  
Father) Like the Psalmist we can say, "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not want"  
Ps 23

We were made for Knowing God and our aim and goal in life should be to be known by God  
and made him known.

**Acknowledgements:**

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NIV Study Bible