

## Liberty Commentary January 21, 2008

Since the day that God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden, man has had a propensity to seek fulfillment through intimate relationships. After God created Adam, God said “it is not good for man to be alone; I will make him an help meet for him”. God then created Eve from the rib of Adam so that Adam could enjoy an intimate relationship with his wife. Since that day men and women alike have been obsessed with finding someone with whom they can share their lives and find fulfillment. Millions of dollars are spent each year in the United States by those seeking to find and establish an intimate relationship with someone with whom they can share their most personal and heartfelt thoughts, needs and desires.

Intimacy can be defined in a number of ways but it is not just something that should be ascribed to romantic feelings. Intimacy has to do with getting to know and understand the innermost character and essence of someone.

As it relates to our relationship with God, Jesus says, “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment”. In order for our interpersonal relationships to function in a harmonious manner, our relationship with God must first be in proper order. We must first establish an intimate relationship with Him where we come to know His innermost character and essence.

Many people know about God and Jesus and can recite the basic tenets of the Christian religion, but many have never come to an understanding that God wants to enter into a personal intimate relationship with each and every person. To many, God is an inference, He is an ideal, He represents goodness, purity and truth. The notions and persuasions about who God is and His role in the universe and our lives personally are as varied as the waves of the

sea. The possibility that we can have an intimate personal relationship with the God of the universe has never entered into the minds of those who only know about God on an intellectual level.

There are others who claim to be Christians and know Christ as their Savior, at least in theory, because their creed or catechism requires them to believe in a personal God. Unfortunately, for many Christians, God is no more real than he is to the unbeliever who views God as an inference or an ideal because many who claim to be Christians have never learned to love God through union and communion with the Savior. They embrace and love an ideal, a creed, a religion, a catechism, a denomination instead of learning to pursue God through a personal intimate relationship.

Jesus says in John chapter fifteen, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” Jesus clearly points out that the way to have an intimate relationship with Him is through union (us in Christ) and communion (Christ in us).

The Christian has two natures. One is the flesh nature that is dominated by the five senses. The flesh is satisfied through the five senses by what we can feel, see, taste, smell, and hear. Our human relationships often revolve around gratifying our senses.

The other nature is the spiritual nature that we receive when we receive Christ as our Savior by faith. Through our spiritual nature we can enter into an intimate relationship with God that is just as real, just as personal and more fulfilling than any human relationship that we might enjoy here on earth. The Bible says in Matthew chapter six, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”.

Many people today are seeking fulfillment through human relationships that can never bring real, lasting, permanent

contentment. When relationships fail, when the job fails, when our health fails and eventually when our life fails, we must have more than just an idealistic view of whom God is if we are to be sustained through the crises. We must enter into a personal intimate relationship with God on a daily basis if we are to find real peace, contentment and happiness for our lives.

God's purpose for your life is to know Him in an intimate way and make Him known to others through your union and communion with God's Son Jesus Christ.

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