Intimacy with God FELLOWSHIP RELATIONSHIP PARTNERSHIP FRIENDSHIP (Ex. 33:11)

1. Definition: closeness / union / oneness / connection / communion
2. ‘come be the fire inside of me, until you and I are one’ Relentless, Misty Edwards
3. Into-me-you-see no masks - Paul on road to Damascus – He de-masks us, no pretense
4. God is self-revealing, you can’t discover Him unless He reveals himself to you (a revelation, to your heart) Ex. 34 in response to ‘show me Your glory’, cry for Presence in Ex. 33
5. It takes God, to know God; it takes God to love God ***He does the initiating,*** we respond

Behold I stand at the door and knock / yet we are told (by Him) to ask, seek, knock

See also Ps. 65:4, Eph. 2:8-9, I John 4:19, Jer. 33:3 (again He writes the script, we read and obey it)…the Hound of Heaven, who hedges us in from other lovers (Hosea 2:6-8)

1. Good news – He wants you to be with him where he is, and to see His glory John 17:24
2. God is a lover looking for a lover, so he formed my heart, so he fashioned me M. Edwards

Why did God create Adam and Eve and place them in the garden? Rev. 4:11 made for love

1. Song: Make your home in me, Vineyard Hungry CD…. Feel so safe with you, ***acceptance***
2. Replace the word love, with like/enjoys/wants – He likes me, He enjoys me, He wants my company, He wants to spend time with me, He wants to talk to me
3. “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Cor. 4:6.
4. My journey
5. Sports, broken family – performance orientation - brought into the church, into relationship

‘There’s nothing I can do to make God love me any more…. Or less’

Loved others the way I loved myself – critical, judgmental, accusing

Afraid once others truly knew me, they would reject me, see my hypocrisy/weakness/credibility gaps Zeph. 3:17 dark yet lovely Is. 62:4

1. “In that day,” declares the Lord, “you will call me ‘my husband’; you will no longer call me ‘my master.’ Hos. 2:16
2. First commandment – love God with all heart soul mind strength
3. God would be a hypocrite if he expected that of you but didn’t do it himself!
4. He will spit lukewarm lovers out, He expects red hot love Rev. 3:15-16
5. He would be a hypocrite if his love was ever lukewarm!
6. BAM! His love for us is ever red hot! Our connection/realization/feelings are fickle

‘feelings are fickle but I love a tickle’ ! liver quivers/ goose bumps/ Spirit swooosh

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Rom 5:5 Holy Spirit’s touch of love on our hearts

“the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

1. ‘let the light of Your face shine down on my heart, and let me feel it’ M. Edwards

Num. 6:24-26

1. Think back - when were you close to God? When did you feel His closeness?
2. What ‘on-ramp’ took you there – takes you there now?
3. Encountering God, His presence (nature, family, work, leisure, art, music, devotional, quiet, conferences….many on-ramps find them and use them to get to GOD
4. Don’t worship the on-ramp …. I’m coming back to the heart of worship (see G-4)
5. How a man defines intimacy may differ from how a woman defines it.
6. Likewise we all have different personalities, tastes – enjoy yours, appreciate others’
7. Two songs – when I’m near you again / there is a river / testimony of Southern gospel
8. Devotionals
9. Psalms/Gospels/letters – pray/read the Word
10. Tozer ‘Knowledge of the Holy’ – ‘mystics’ (definition of a
11. John Eldredge – Walking with God, Moving Mountains, The Journey of Desire, Wild at Heart
12. Mike Bickle – Pleasures of Loving God, 7 Longings of the Human Heart, After God’s Heart,

Passion for Jesus, mikebickle.com (song of Solomon, The First Commandment, etc.)

1. John Piper – Desiring God, Don’t Waste Your Life, God is the Gospel, Let the Nations be Glad
2. Thomas Dubay – Fire Within, The Evidential Power of Beauty
3. Prayer guides give us purpose, and an outlet – want to know Jesus? Get in the yoke with Him. Shared activities are the best for bonding, making memories – be about your Father’s business. Doing Business God’s Way – Dennis Peacocke …management skills
4. Mechanics - Getting alone with God (introvert/extrovert ), or using your own ‘on ramp’
5. If you knew the Uncreated One was going to be at your kitchen table tomorrow at 5am would you keep the appointment? Talk WITH him about his Love Letter.
6. He is ravished by our weak attempts to find Him, He loves to hear our voice – He IS our Father - My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, **let me hear your voice**; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Song of Sol. 2:14

1. Before He was a creator Gen. 1:1 He was a father – John 1:1, Eph 1 ‘before the foundation’
2. Find a place, find a time; look for spontaneous times; keep an open heart for encounter for ‘kisses’ - Song of Sol . 1:2
3. Work = worship keep a pen and note paper handy to write down ‘to do’ list to set aside lower priorities but valid priorities ; and a journal, if it works for you
4. Other thoughts/seeds:
5. God is not a means to an end(s), He IS the end / Seek His face, AND hand
6. You can have as much of God as you’d like, and you presently do.
7. The only thing worse than God not showing up, is God showing up.

(He is a HOLY powerful righteous just God. He re-converts us, undoes us, purges us, moves in ways that require a response.)

(He loves me so much, He loves me just the way I am.

He loves me so much, He doesn’t leave me the way I am.)

1. God isn’t looking for worship, He’s looking for worshipers (who worship in spirit and truth)
2. Before He was Creator, before Gen. 1:1, He was a father and wanted a family (Eph. 1:4, John 1:1). See also John 17:24.
3. Perfect love casts out fear. God is love. Love builds confidence. I John 4:17-18, Rom 8:35, 38
4. Love compels us II Cor. 5:14-15 to live for Him

Love is the greatest force in the world – lovers outwork workers

1. Do you want to spend time in the principal’s office? (God is not mean, but always in a good mood!)

But you can never snooker (deceive) Him! …and you don’t need to

1. The cure for a cold heart is Him breathing/blowing on the bonfire of His word in our hearts.

\*\*\* FULL DISCLOSURE \*\*\*

1. Intimacy for a purpose!
2. Beware of a consumption mentality; honor/reverence I AM.

Beware also of over analyzing love. Heart thing/head thing balance.

1. Stand in His counsel – Jer. 23:22

But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds

1. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him Ps. 25:14
2. He loves:
3. justice (Is. 61:8), // helen taylor praying for justice
4. Righteousness: The Lord loves righteousness and justice;  
       the earth is full of his unfailing love Ps. 33:15
5. Faith (Heb. 11:6, Rom. 4:3)
6. He delights in Mercy (Micah 7:18)
7. We must not only love what He loves, but hate what He hates (Rev. 2:14, deeds/doctrine not people).
8. Jesus defined love as obedience to His words (John 14:23), and promised Father’s abiding.
9. We need oil in our lamps – the oil of knowing God, being with God personally, relationally

It will be needed for our ‘journey’, for making it to our destiny, to our goal, to our Lord’s return.

To make it through hard times, trying times, tribulation; founded on ROCK of doing His word.

Matt. 25:1-13.

1. We are on a journey of getting to mature love, tried love, purified/refined love, tested love.
2. We are not hopeless hypocrites (accuser), but weak lovers whose love will be tested, will be perfected (matured/developed).
3. Beyond what’s in it for me (eros, flesh, self, my fulfillment) to agape

‘love of God overflow, permeate all my soul’

1. Crisis when we realize we are ‘using’ God, we have impure, selfish, love on our terms.

The sweet (joyful) surrender, brokenness, death to self but alive in love.

He who began a good work in us can do it and will do it, will complete it.

1. Agape love – your welfare, His welfare at my expense.

Good news – He’s got all the resources in the world, He’s the more committed to the relationship.

He is stubbornly committed to complete the good work (or maturing us, making us into the image of the Son) He has started in us.

1. “from the comfortable couch of being fed by him, to the mysterious mountains of being led by him” Song of Sol. Chapters 2 and 3
2. Song of Sol. 1:4 ‘draw me after you (in intimacy), and let us run together (in ministry)’
3. His name is Jealous Jealousy – Exod. 34:14, James 4:4-5, Song of Sol. 8:6
4. *that the spirit he caused to dwell in us envies intensely;* or *that the Spirit he caused to dwell in us longs jealously (He Loves – he is jealous for me ,loves like a hurricane)*
5. Do you think the Scripture ·means nothing that says [or says for no reason], ·“The Spirit that God made to live in us wants us for himself alone”? [or “God yearns jealously for the spirit he has made to live in us”?; or “The spirit God placed within us tends to jealously desire things”?;
6. Or do you suppose that the Scripture is speaking to no purpose that says, The Spirit Whom He has caused to dwell in us yearns over us and He yearns for the Spirit [to be welcome] with a jealous love? ….jealousy demanding as the grave M. Edwards
7. I AM
8. “When Jesus was on earth he never placed any more importance on raising the dead than on blessing a child. He never started a denomination on either event! The important thing to him was that the Father had given him an order and it was the son’s delight to carry it out.” Joy Dawson, Intimate Friendship with God: Through Understanding the Fear of the Lord
9. Wisdom is the principal thing. The greatest of these is Love.

I AM is our all in all, what we need when we need it, what He wants to be at any given moment.

1. Pick any one chapter of any gospel – look for extremes. Taken out of context God can be at any given spectrum at any given time – love, judgment, mercy, justice, strong, humble, etc.

Telling us to be good stewards, or to give it all away! Don’t box in the GREAT BIG GOD.

5 blindfolded men touching different parts of the elephant! What an elephant is like.

1. Voluntary love – God waits for us, He has all the time in the world

He values voluntary love. He gives us dignity in giving us free will.

He will let us go to hell for eternity if we don’t want Him.

Love is patient. God is love. He waits for us to figure out His love is the best thing in the world.

Love also delights in the truth so He’ll nudge us, show us our idols are inferior.

Love is kind, giving us good things to bring us to repentance.

Our voluntary love ravishes His heart, our ‘yes’ delights Him.

We choose Him over even His good gifts.

1. God is much more interested in a relationship with you than for what you can do for him!

Henry Blackaby

1. Songs:
2. Julie Meyer – I want to know God
3. JM – Just want to be with you
4. Vineyard Hungry CD – make your home in me
5. Vineyard Hungry CD – Child of God
6. Julie True, Rick Pino, Corey Asbury, Jon Thurlow, Misty Edwards, Matt Gilman

Matt Redman, and on and on David Brymer, Bethel, YouTube!