

THE KINGS ROYAL SUBJECT

"God's Desire"

Philippians 3:1-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. When a couple is dating and they were getting along, and there was no doubt this was the right person, an emotional bond was developed.

a) Not Physical BUT Emotional!!!

b) And share your heart. Over time you develop a deep INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP.

2. **LISTEN UP:** If God designed us with a deep need and deep desire for INTIMACY in our human relationships, HOW MUCH MORE HE WANTS A CLOSE, COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH US.

3. BUT far too often we PUSH God AWAY.

4. **PSALM 148, 66:4**

a) All of creation performs for God, but the intimacy of relationship with Him is reserved for the people who know Christ as Savior and our IDENTITY is in Christ.

1) *Galatians 2:20*

5. **FACT IS:** GOD DESIRES - EVEN YEARNS - for an INTIMATE, SPIRITUAL, RELATIONSHIP with us.

6. **VERY IMPORTANT:** The capacity to draw close to another person and share your lives in such a way that you know each other inside out is part of the **IMAGE OF GOD** that we bear as emotional and relational human beings.

7. **The reason it is so vital, is because true intimacy motivates us in all we do.**

a) When you truly love your spouse, your spouse won't have to ask you to call, or to take out the trash, or to help around the house.

b) When two people know each other INTIMATELY, they are FREE TO BE THEMSELVES around each other.

I. IT STARTS WITH PASSION

A. A PASSION FOR SPIRITUAL INTIMACY

1. **Definition:** Passion is an all-consuming desire to draw closer to Jesus and to know Him more fully.

2. *James 4:8*

3. *Philippians 3:1-2, 4-14*

a) Vs 2

1) *"Look out for the dogs"*

2) *"look out for the evildoers"*

3) *"Look out for those who mutilate the flesh"*

b) Paul is talking about the **"Judaizers"**

4. The **JUDAIZERS** were the religious elites trying to make the Philippians focus on **"rule keeping"** rather than on their personal relationship with Jesus.

a) Vs 3

1) What a declaration of the value of knowing Christ over religious performance.

5. Vs 10

a) *"and that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection."*

B. AN AUDIT OF ONE'S LIFES WORK

1. *Philippians 3:4*

a) Paul now gives his Resume' which was evidence of his credentials as a Jew of Jews.

2. Vs 5-6

3. **Paul's religious upbringing was spotless.**

a) He was from the tribe of Benjamin.

b) **PAUL HAD ALL THE CREDENTIALS**

1) He was a Hebrew of Hebrews

4. *"A Pharisee had reached the very summit of religious experience, the highest ideal a Jew could ever hope to attain."*

5. Paul was a "Man on Fire" and was willing to round up the Christian Cult.

a) *Acts 9:1-2*

C. ONLY ONE THING MISSING

1. Paul didn't Know Jesus

2. Do you have any idea what that means?

a) **Acts 9:3-9**

3. Philippians 3:7

4. When Paul met Jesus on the Damascus Road, he had to leave all his religious pride and performance lying there in the dust.

5. WOW!!! Paul had to come to the realization all sinners must face, that the only way to heaven is found in a person, not a performance.

D. THE POWER TO LIVE FOR CHRIST

1. Vs 8-9

a) The power to live for Christ comes from knowing the Person of Christ...

1)and from receiving the righteousness that comes through faith in Him.

2. Paul gladly left behind his Superstar Status in Judaism because of his passion to know Christ intimately.

II. THE PURSUIT OF KNOWING CHRIST

1. Galatians 2:20

2. **Philippians 3:10** is another verse to build your life around.

a) *"That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."*

A. A LIFELONG PURSUIT

1. As the King's Royal Subjects, we are to Pursue Christ Intimately.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:16

3. After his conversion, Paul truly came to know the Lord, because he became a new creature in Christ.

a) **QUESTION:** Why is it that some Christians have Victory while others are defeated?

b) **ANSWER:** Because Victorious Christians know Christ more intimately and because of that they experience His resurrection power, that is transferred to the King's Royal Subjects (disciples).

4. Vs 10

a) A lot of us Christians would like to put a period after "**That I may know the power of his resurrection**" Period!!

B. SHARING CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

1. Vs 10

a) **BUT THE VERSE CONTINUES:** "*and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in death.*"

2. VERY IMPORTANT: We are called to share in Christ's suffering!!!

3. All that meant Paul had a special kind of intimacy that drew him close.

a) If we are going to know Christ with the kind of intimacy that draws us close, we must know Him in the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

b) WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

- 1) It means that we are called to share in Christ's sufferings!!
- 2) Paul suffered for sharing the GOSPEL

c) MOST CHRISTIANS WANT A FOUR STEP PROGRAM OF DISCIPLESHIP

- a) Read your Bible
- b) Pray
- c) Attend Church if it doesn't interfere with anything else.
- d) Serve now and then

d) *Ephesians 2:10*

4. LISTEN UP: The problem is that we think LISTS HAVE SOME SPECIAL KIND OF POWER that they don't have.

5. VERY IMPORTANT: REAL POWER comes when the LIVING WORD, JESUS CHRIST, connects with the IMPLANTED WORD in our souls.

6. THIS IS BIG: THAT'S CALLED ABIDING

CONCLUSION:

1. God's Desire is to have a close intimate relationship with us!!!

2. *Philippians 3:10*

a) "*That I may know*"