

FROM DYSFUNCTION TO DEEP CONNECTION

Part 2 of Series DIVING DEEPER: Going Beneath The Surface With God And Others

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“We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy. This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in Him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 1:3-9 (NLT)

- **OUR GREATEST NEED IS DEEP AND LASTING CONNECTION**

- **OUR GREATEST FEAR IS LOSING CONNECTION**

1. REMEMBER THE REAL ISSUE IS FEAR OF LOSING CONNECTION

“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.”

1 John 4:18a (NLT)

“Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves.”

James 4:1 (MSG)

2. RECOGNIZE THE DISCONNECTION DANCE THAT CREATES MORE DISTANCE

“But now, put off all such things as anger, rage, malice, slander, abusive language from your mouth.”

Colossians 3:8 (NET)

“Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry—but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life.” Ephesians 4:26-27 (MSG)

3. RISK ADMITTING MY DEEPEST NEED RATHER THAN ATTACKING OR WITHDRAWING

“When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘I want to see!’ And Jesus said, ‘All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.’” Luke 18:40-42 (NLT)

4. RESIST JUDGING AND FOCUS ON UNDERSTANDING

“Similarly, you husbands should try to understand the wives you live with....”

1 Peter 3:7a (Ph)

5. RELY ON GOD'S POWER

“... you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.”

James 4:2b (NIV)