

Encounter

Introduction:

- We are busy with a series about the foundational pillars of Christianity and living it out.
- **In English we call it the 5 E's**
- Encounter relationship with God
- Engage relationship with Church
- Equip maturing or growing to be more Christlike
- Empower serving in Church to empower and encourage others
- Export serving in the mission field to fulfill your purpose and be a witness

- The main idea with these pillars is to grow in them within relation to another
- Explain
- With all this in mind we need to understand the prophetic vision this year for our church, and our covering body is acceleration.
- What does acceleration have to do with the pillars?
- If you are not growing and deepening holistically in all these areas you will become unstable in your representation of the Godhead.
- And unstable people are in danger when they accelerate

ENCOUNTER

- Last week Louis did the overview of the 5 pillars and their meaning as well as their relation to each other.
- This week we are focusing on “Encounter” which refers to your personal relationship with God.
- We want to encourage you to listen to the past few Sunday’s sermons, because they are all connected to form a picture.

- On vision Sunday we preached about “Acceleration” and we used 1 Kings 18 as reference to explain it.
- We referred to the story of Elijah the prophet who outran the chariot of the king on foot and ended with: you will outrun kings chariots and horses with your bare feet
- One of the first points in that sermon was that Elijah had intimacy with God.
- His life was in danger because of his devotion to God.

TODAY ENCOUNTER:

- Today we look at our personal relationship with God.
- When Adam and Eve turned against God and pursued to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they died spiritually.
- Why?
- They wanted to be their own judge of good and evil and rejected God as their God.
- Before that happened Adam and Eve were family with the Godhead.
- They walked together in the evenings and talked about their days.
- They worked together, when Adam named the animals.
- Who knows? They dreamed together
- God was busy preparing them for their call to rule and subdue the earth
- Most of the interaction was about life, building, love and closeness.
- After the fall things changed.
- Adam and Eve died spiritually, Cain and Abel were born spiritually dead.
- They related to God as someone distant they brought offers for him to bless them.
- They had to do things to show him their devotion.

- Then came the Israelites and the law, the law was a way for Israel to be righteous before God
- They were under the yoke of the law and it had to be kept meticulous to be accepted
- It was impossible to be perfect
- The major function of the law is to show us we were not intended to do the impossible to be part of God
- Then He send Jesus, and the fall of Adam and Eve were wiped out and replaced by the relational picture of Eden
- Now we need to understand that there will be a moment for us all to die to our previous self and be born again in Him.

John 3:4-8 Amplified Bible (AMP)

- *4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.(A) 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh [the physical is merely physical], and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be surprised that I have told you, ‘You must be born again [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified].’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it is coming from and where it is going; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*
- The sign to show yourself, heaven and hell you are born-again is the water baptism

Romans 6:4

We have therefore been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory and power of the Father, we too might walk habitually in newness of life [abandoning our old ways].

- That is why the baptism is for people who can decide if they want to die to self and be born in Jesus.
- Some ask what about babies are they going to hell? NO!

Mark 10:14

But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and He said to them, "Allow the children to come to Me; do not forbid them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

- *So let's see how this fits in with Encounter.*
- *You can know about God, Jesus and Holy Spirit and you do not really know them.*
- *You and I know about the queen we watch Crown and we read stories*
- *She is well known, but she does not know me and I don't really know her.*
- *God's desire is to know us and for us to know Him.*

1. He made you to love you: accept it and enjoy it

Revelation 4:11b, NLT

"You God created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created!" (Rev. 4:11b, NLT)

"The Lord takes pleasure in His people." (Psalm 149:4, GN)

"Long before He laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of His love." (Eph. 1:4, MSG)

- As humans we have trouble to assimilate selflessness.
- Very few instances in our lives reveal selflessness.
- The most profound example would be to have kids.
- Ideal parents, have children to love them and enjoy them.
- This varies, we have good times and bad times.

- Good times with children is especially when they sleep.
- That is why I believe this:

Lamentations 3:22-23 English Standard Version (ESV)

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new (C)every morning; great is your faithfulness.

- It is impossible for us to imagine Someone who needs nothing
 - Someone who has so much that the only thing He could think of was to share it
 - Someone so generous that He would give His life to be able to bring us home
 - Someone so loving that He gave up His place in heaven to dwell with us until the day we all go home.
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- Harder still is to accept it and enjoy it.
 - I am not being ridiculous, who here feel comfortable with people blessing you for no reason?
 - A lot of us struggle, our self-worth boycott us from receiving.
 - Story about R100 dollar bill
 - Orphan spirit:
 1. The orphan spirit operates out of insecurity and jealousy. The spirit of sonship functions out of love and acceptance.
 2. The orphan spirit is jealous of the success of his brothers. The mature son is committed to the success of his brothers.
 3. The orphan spirit serves God to earn the Father's love. The mature son serves God out of a sense of divine acceptance and favor.
 4. The orphan spirit tries to medicate its deep internal alienation through physical stimulation. The mature son walks in the joy and presence of the Lord for comfort.

5. The orphan spirit is driven by the need for success. The Spirit leads the mature son into his calling and mission.
 6. The orphan spirit uses people as objects to fulfill goals. Mature sons serve people to bless the kingdom.
 7. The orphan spirit has anger and fits of rage.
The spirit of sonship rests in the Father's ability to control and guide the future.
 8. The orphan spirit is always in competition with others.
The spirit of sonship is always blessing others.
 9. The orphan spirit receives its primary identity through material possessions, physical appearance and activities.
The spirit of sonship is grounded in sonship and the Father's affirmation.
 10. The orphan spirit lacks self-esteem. The spirit of sonship walks in the love and acceptance of Father God.
- If you exhibit any of these symptoms, we don't want to shame you. We just want to remind you that you have a family in the Godhead.
 - You have a great Dad that loves you no matter what.

(He made you to love you: accept it and enjoy it)

2. Love Him

- If your perception of love is twisted, you will not love God in a healthy way.
- Some of us are still trapped in conditional love, or love that has to be earned.
- Conditional love sounds like this:
I will love you if you do this or that
I will love you if you are better
I will love you if you love me the same or more..

- Conditional love is like a cancerous love, it eats away at a relationship like cancer, why?
- If you are going to love God and people with expectations in mind you are bound to be disappointed.
- I will never be good enough for you – talk about high maintenance friends and low maintenance friends
- People make mistakes, people are different, people will fail you
- God will not dance to your tune.
- God’s ways are not our ways He will confuse you.
- We need to love God unconditionally like He loves us.
- Ephesians 3:17-19 *“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge— that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*
- Romans 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*
- God loves us dangerously, with everything – stating that nothing can change that.
- That is how we should love God, with everything. Trusting him unconditionally, saying and meaning it that nothing can change that.

Matthew 22:37

And Jesus replied to him, “You shall **love the Lord your God** with all **your** heart, and with all **your** soul, and with all **your** mind.’

- Love God with your whole heart, don’t hold out on Him because you are afraid, He is better than anyone you have ever known
- Love God with your soul, love Him with all your soul, that means with all your emotions and love Him in your choices
- Love Him in your mind,

2 Corinthians 10:5

We are destroying sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God, and we are

taking every thought and purpose captive to the obedience of Christ,

- One thing I leave with you, your love will never be wasted on God.

(He made you to love you: accept it and enjoy it)

(Love Him)

3. Be with Him

- James 4:8 says Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you.
- Relationship and time goes hand in hand, the more you know people the deeper your love for them.
- We see the two sisters in who loved Jesus, Martha was always doing things for Him and the other-Mary- just sat at His feet.
- Martha complained to Jesus to rebuke Mary because she had to do all the work while Mary just sat at His feet
- Jesus answered her:

Luke 10:41-42 Amplified Bible (AMP)

41 But the Lord replied to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered and anxious about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part [that which is to her advantage], which will not be taken away from her."

- Investing time in God will never be a disadvantage, what you download in those times will never be taken away
- Look at busy successful people who neglect family.
- Once they are old, they regret having all the success and money and no-one to share it with.
- Don't one of those people who never tell God you love Him because He should know.
- Don't be formal with Him
- Don't neglect to honor Him in the big things in your life
- Be with Him, love Him, make time for Him.

Application:

- **He made you to love you: accept it and enjoy it**

- If you can accept His love and enjoy it, you are able to give it back to Him and to others.
- When someone feels loved and valued, they are secure and steady.
- They give more than they take
- Their presence brings about peace and joy

- **Love Him**

- If you let yourself love God unconditionally you walk in the first and foremost purpose you were made for
- All the “great” men and women in the Bible loved God
- Be His friend, when you love someone like God is gives back much more than it takes away
- Love Him with all your heart, love Him bravely
- Love Him with your emotions, and your choices
- Love Him with all you mind, guard your thoughts the evil one hates our relationship with Him

- **Be with Him**

- Your best investment on earth would be spending time with God