

OVERCOMING IMBALANCE

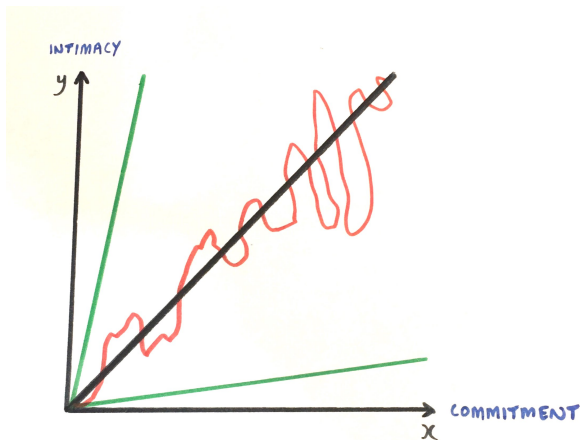
Sermon Series : Overcome

Speaker : Scott Burns

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John 15:9-15

The following graph was displayed showing the interrelationship between intimacy and commitment:



commitment = a pledge to being dedicated to a cause in a way that restricts freedom of action.

intimacy = "in-to-me-see"

These labels can be replaced with the words from any of the historic/scriptural tensions:

Faith & Works (cf. Heb 11:6; Jas 2:17)

Speak & Serve (cf. 1 Pet 3:15; 2:12)

Grace & Truth (cf. Jn 1:14)

Spirit & Truth/Word (Jn 4:24; 14:26)

Experience & Discipline (Matt 7:21-23; John 5:39-40)

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of the definition of intimacy? What are the implications of this definition for how we understand and pursue intimacy with others?
2. Where would you plot yourself on the graph for each of the historic tensions? What other tensions can you think of that exist in Scripture?
3. Where are you imbalanced; and what might you do to correct that imbalance?

A Prayer of Commitment

A.W. Tozer

I come to you today, O Lord,
To give up my rights,
To lay down my life,
To offer my future,
To give my devotion, my skills, my energies.

I shall not waste time
Deploring my weaknesses
Nor my unfittedness for the work.
I acknowledge your choice with my life
To make Christ attractive and intelligible
To those around me.

I come to you for spiritual preparation.
Put your hand upon me,
Anoint me with the oil of the One With Good News.

Save me from compromise,
Heal my soul from [selfish] ambitions,
Deliver me from the itch to always be right,
Save me from wasting time.

I accept hard work, I ask for no easy place,
Help me not to judge others who walk a smoother path.
Show me those things that diminish spiritual power in a soul.

I now consecrate my days to you,
Make your will more precious than anybody or anything.
Fill me with your power
And when at the end of life's journey
I see you face to face
May I hear those undeserving words:
"Well done my good and faithful servant"

I ask this not for myself
But for the glory of the name of your Son. Amen!