

RELATIONAL THEOLOGY SERIES THREE
INTIMATE LIFE
Dr. Roger Barrier
I Jn. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:1; Rev. 5:12-14

Wouldn't you like to be there at the beginning?
I mean at the real beginning?

VIDEO: Men in Black
2001 musical theme

- SLIDE #1: It all began with nothing.
- SLIDE #2: Instant explosion from single point, singularity. Burst of energy turning into matter.
- SLIDE #3: Within seconds it had cooled enough for quarks and leptons and charms to form.
- SLIDE #4: Before 3 minutes had gone by cooled enough to make protons, neutrons and electrons to make Hydrogen, Helium, and some Lithium.
- SLIDE #5: Clumped into protogalaxies, on the way to forming stars in which all other elements would be created, either by fusion inside the star or in massive supernova explosions.

Scientists long to know what happened at the very beginning. Laws of physics can say back to 1/63000 of a second. Can't get back to the very first moment.
Wouldn't you like to talk to some one who saw it all?

READ 1 JOHN 1:1: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.

- SLIDE #6: Notice how he begins with neuter gender and transitions to the masculine in the middle of verse one. Why?

Reference to the Word of John 1:1. Logos is Greek philosophical term for the unrevealed wisdom of the universe—this is neuter.

The logos put on a body and is now masculine gender in person of Jesus Christ.

Why did the “neuter” become “masculine” anyway?

We begin to get an idea of it in this verse: The Unrevealed Wisdom of God wanted to bring life so that we could have an intimate relationship with Him.

The one at the beginning—the unknowable God—was, in fact the person of Jesus Christ who has put on a body that John listened to, looked at and even touched with his hands!

- SLIDE #7: Miracles—like feeding the 5000.
- SLIDE #8: He saw Him minister to people like the woman at the well
- SLIDE #9: He saw Him glorified like at the Transfiguration
- SLIDE #10: Touched his nail-pierced side in the upper room.

READ 1 JOHN 1:2: The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.

READ 1 JOHN 1:3-4: We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this

to make our joy complete.

We are telling you this so that we may have fellowship with each other and so that we may have fellowship with God.

1 John is all about intimate fellowship with each other and with God.

- SLIDE #11: John reminds us of the forgotten purpose of truth. Truth has three purposes. The third is usually forgotten: (fix mistake in #1 in bulletin insert: #1 is Rational—not Relational)
 1. The Rational Purpose: Doctrine—which answers the question, “What do I believe?”
 2. Behavioral: Ethics and Morals—which answer the question, “How should I behave?”
 3. Relational: Relationships—which answer the question, “How does this truth affect my relationship with God and with others?”

If you believe what I believe and behave like I behave, we can have fellowship. If you don’t, we won’t.

Which sounds better to a lost world?

- SLIDE #12: “You need God, Brother.”
- SLIDE #13: Or, “We need God, and we need each other, too.”

“You need God” uses only the 1st two purposes of truth.

“We need God, and we need each other, too,” uses all three purposes.

“Fellowship with each other.”

British general from gulf war we met in Switzerland. Instant camaraderie.

But more than that, we He is talking about intimate, ongoing relationships.

We will do our own illustration this morning.

Now, let’s experience this verse—in triplets.

Are you going to do this often? Perhaps not. But I want us to experience the Bible. Every time we meet I intend for us to leave a little less alone than when we came.

- SLIDE #14: Think of a time when you experienced a time of hurt and/or aloneness and someone came and ministered to you in your time of need.

SLIDE #15: “We need God, and we need each other, too.”

Go to ABF and children’s, and youth programs. If not what you want them to be, get in there and improve them. We need each other.

Join a Casas’ small group.

But there is even more taught in this book. The truth is,

- SLIDE #16: “We need God; we need each other; and God needs us.”

Consider for a moment with me the mystery of a God who receives.

Think of examples when He enjoyed receiving.

Consider Christ's feelings, needs and behaviors

- SLIDE #17: See Him in the Garden of Gethsemane needing Peter, James, and John during His agony.

- SLIDE #18: Remember the story of the Ten Lepers

Jesus looked at him and said, "Why didn't you go to Jerusalem and show yourself to the priests like I asked you to do?"

No. He looked at him and said, "Weren't there ten healed? Where are the other nine?" He could have hoped for all ten. He is receiving.

- SLIDE #19: This is the mystery of the anointing when Mary knelt at His feet to anoint Him. Picture how much He is enjoying this. Judas spoiled the moment that he was enjoying. Look at how he responded to Judas. Only Mary figured out that He was about to die and He was enjoying receiving the moment.

- SLIDE #20: and in the praises of Revelation 5:12: In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

- SLIDE #21: Revelation 5:12-14: Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

He loves to receive and enjoy fellowship and intimacy with His creation.

Grandmother story: "I can't wait for them to get up. They're up! They're up! Now I can spend the day with them!"

Our view of God is more like, "Oh great, he's up. I wonder what trouble he's going to get into today?"

God loves to enjoy time with us. He enjoys receiving from us. Like children's gifts to parents. God treasures the time we spend with Him.

- SLIDE #22: Dad, I love you! Did you have a good day? I did! I can't wait to see you." (Brie, 10)

- SLIDE #23: My dad is so tender hearted. (Bron, 5)

- SLIDE #24: I love you with my blood pumping muscle. (Bron, 7)

- SLIDE #25: Dad, I love you so much! I prayed for you today. I missed you today! Did you have a good day? Kisses and hugs! Thanks for picking me up. Hi Dad! Smile! Love you, Brianna (11).

- SLIDE #26: Here is one from Bron (8), Dad, I miss you so much. Take some time off from work.

- SLIDE #27: John invites us today to have the same intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ that John had with Jesus when Christ was on earth in His physical body.

How intimate were they?

- SLIDE #28: Consider the upper room: Jesus says, "One of you is going to betray me." Who speaks next? Peter says to John: "Ask him who it is." Peter knew John was closest to Jesus. Besides, John was leaning on Jesus' chest. Talk about intimacy. John: "Who is it?" Jesus, "The one to whom I give this sop."

- SLIDE #29: Consider the crucifixion: They all fled and forsook Him, except John. He is the only disciple at the crucifixion. Jesus: "Woman behold your son." Jesus entrusted His mother to John.

•SLIDE #30: Jesus' words to Peter in John 21: "Peter, you're going to die." Peter: "What about John?"
"What is that to you? I may leave him alive until I come again." Jesus let him live to over 100 and before he died entrusted the future of the entire world to John—the Revelation.

John 17: "I no longer call you servants, I call you friends because all that the father has shown unto me I have shared with you.

He revealed His secrets to His intimate friends.

Pastor in San Jose. Sent them out for an hour of prayer with God reflected afterward to the group, "God told me, 'you're neglecting Me emotionally.'"

This was the kind of intimacy that John wants us to have with Christ and with each other.

•SLIDE #31: John invites us today to have the same intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ that John had with Jesus when Christ was on earth in His physical body.

This is great. Intimacy with God is what 1 John is all about. That is why Glenn and I decided to preach on this book for awhile.

Let me put this intimacy in a perspective we can all understand.

Met a youth pastor in San Jose, 46 years old. Getting married for first time. Asked him, "How did you propose?"

Took her to church at 11 pm. after a date. Told her to be obedient: Go into the restroom and take off your nylons. She did it. Took her up on stage and turned on spotlight. Took out a basin of water and a towel and began to wash her feet. Most humble service Jesus ever did was wash their feet. I want to wash your feet. I want to serve you for the rest of your life. She was crying. Put down towel and took out a ring, looked up into her eyes and asked, "Will you marry me?"

Is that intimate or what? God desires to have that same intimacy with us.

Let's pray.