

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

Today Glenn and I will begin a series of sermons from the Bible book of 1 John. John emphasizes four themes that circle around three times throughout the book. Take your Bible and mark out these three repeating themes and begin to get a good feel for the topics of:

Love (2:7-11; 3:11-18; 4:7-12)
Obedience (2:3-6; 3:4-10; 5:1-5)
Faith (2:18-27; 4:1-6; 5:6-12)
Reassurance (2:12-14; 3:19-24; 5:13-17)

This morning we will experience the first four verses.

Read 1 John 1:1-4.

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

Why does John begin with the neuter gender and switch to masculine in the middle of verse one? Why did the "neuter" become "masculine" anyway?

Notice the intimacy here between John and the one he touched, heard and saw.

John reminds us of the forgotten purpose of truth. Truth has three purposes. The third is usually forgotten:

1. The Relational 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?"

We need God; we need each other; and God needs us.

Consider for a moment with me the mystery of a God who receives. Consider Christ's feelings, needs and behaviors in the Garden, at the Transfiguration, with the Ten Lepers, when Mary knelt at His feet to anoint Him, and in the praises of Revelation 5:12-14.

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? Consider the upper room, the crucifixion, Jesus' words to Peter in John 21 and the revelations to the three people identified as "beloved" in the Bible.

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

Think of a time when you experienced a time of hurt and/or aloneness and someone came and ministered to you.

Think of a time you were hurting alone and God met your need in intimacy and fellowship.