

KESSID SERMON NOTES



A SERIES AT KESSID

Sermon
"WITH Love"

Date
11-26-17

Speaker
Pastor Chris Potter

"With" – A culmination of 3 series together (Visible/Coram Deo)

#1 Complaint within our community...

- "I wish I was more connected WITH other people or WITH God"

"Community is deeply grounded in the nature of God. It flows from who God is. Because He is community, He creates community. It is His gift of Himself to humans. Therefore, the making of community may not be regarded as an optional decision for Christians. It is a compelling and irrevocable necessity, a binding divine mandate for all believers at all times."

- Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian

But this is where it gets messy.... As we prayerfully dove into this, we have found that for the most part, our disconnection with each other and with God has not been for lack of wanting, but from our lack of knowing how to connect deeply.

Simply put, we don't know how to get to where we long to be. At the core of our being is this truth—we are designed for, and defined by, our relationships.

The Purpose of this series is to help us spend some time in: Spiritual & Relational Self Awareness

	<u>Scripture</u>	&	<u>Spirit</u>	
Self-Aware With God	Grace		Safe	Self-Aware With Each Other
	Truth		Honest	
	Love		Devoted	

We are relational beings because we are created in the image of a relational God. By definition, the Christian God exists in relationship as Father, Son and Spirit. While existing as three distinct persons, they share one divine essence that is described as love (1 John 4:8).

What is love?

- Love is a word, but what matters is the connection that word implies.

“We cultivate love when we allow our most vulnerable and powerful selves to be deeply seen and known, and when we honor the spiritual connection that grows from that offering with trust, respect, kindness and affection. Love is not something we give or get; it is something that we nurture and grow, a connection that can only be cultivated between two people when it exists within each one of them – we can only love others as much as we love ourselves.” – Brené Brown

Video – “Covenants”

- God is devoted to a loving connection to us.

Devotion is a profound dedication for someone or something.

The Greeks had four words to describe the devoted connections we call love....

- **Eros - Romantic Love**
 - This word is often used to express sexual love or the feelings of arousal that are shared between people who are physically attracted to one another.
- **Phileo – Friendship Love**
 - It is the kind of love you feel for people who have similar social interests, hobbies, and styles of expressing themselves.
- **Storge - Family Love**
 - When you practice Storge love, you accept the person’s faults, forgive their mistakes and are completely committed.
- **Agape - Unconditional Love**
 - “To take pleasure in the thing, prize it above all other things, be unwilling to abandon it or do without it.”

“Learning to relate starts at least as early as the day we are born (and probably in the womb). Our way of entering in and maintaining all our relationships (not just marriage) is one of the earliest psychological structures formed in us. We come into the world neurologically wired to make connections, to attach to others. When our early connections are healthy, we will find it easier to connect well as adults. To the extent our emotional attachment with our primary caregivers is lacking while we are children, we will find our relational capacity limited as adults.” – Richard Plass

How we attach as parents is the #1 indicator of how a child will attach. The base of everything comes down to trust. Jesus knows this.... **Every time Jesus showed up in scripture, He always talked with one specific strategy...** Jesus always taught about whatever was at war for our hearts desire...

Matt. 19:16-22 - Rich Young Ruler

- Jesus tells the truth (What is needed at the time)
- God is profoundly dedicated not only to you, but in partnering with you towards His mission

Story - Crown – shifts within 12 hours

- The Bible calls me to 'Love my neighbor, my enemy, my wife, and myself.' But my responsibility is to discern what type of connection is necessary for each one, at each time.
- "90 percent of people's problems could be prevented if they'd choose healthier people to give their hearts to." – John Richmond
- Keep your love on....

Colossians 3:12-17

We get stuck in our ways... and are not self-aware....

"The philosopher Socrates said, "An unexamined life is not worth living." If a common philosopher could think that, how much more we Christians ought to listen to the Holy Spirit when He says, "Examine yourself." An unexamined Christian lies like an unattended garden. Let your garden go unattended for a few months, and you will not have roses and tomatoes but weeds. An unexamined Christian life is like an unkempt house. Lock your house up as tight as you will and leave it long enough, and when you come back you will not believe the dirt that got in from somewhere. It takes examination, teaching, instruction, discipline, caring, tending, weeding and cultivating to keep the life right." – A.W. Tozer

What if we give ourselves a "Devotion Audit"

Who are you devoted to?

How?

- Meeting the Physical, Emotional, Spiritual needs of those in my circle

What callings are you devoted to?

In what ways are you partnering with God in making His kingdom come and His will be done?

- We cannot reach our potential without healthy relationships. Deep and meaningful relationships are both the means and the result of living into our potential.
- All relationships are teleological – they are going somewhere.

We must pursue loving connections built on the foundations of....

Grace (Safety) / Truth (Honesty) / Love (Devotion)

"MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." – Thomas Merton