

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.
Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching
Guard the sharing

Male Call

July 25, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Me With Me—Part VI

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer				
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) <i>We Have Believed in Lies!</i></p> <p>a) My view of <u>who I think I should be</u> generally arises from affirmation and love we have received. I come to believe this self leads to “life” (love and affirmation). It is the self I consciously and unconsciously strive for.</p> <p>b) My view of <u>who I really am but am afraid to be</u> generally arises from me taking a critical look at myself and from criticism from outside of ourselves. I come to believe this self leads to “death” (rejection). It is the self I try to hide, consciously and unconsciously, at all costs.</p> <p>c) “Mind the Gap”</p> <p>i) The “gap” between who I think I should be and who I think I am provides major motivational force in our lives.</p> <p>ii) It is a hole, created in me “then” that I try to fix by my behavior “now.”</p> <p>d) BOTH OF THESE SELVES ARE LIES</p> <p>i) The <u>me I believe I should be</u> is who I would create me to be if I were God.</p> <p>ii) The <u>me I believe I am</u> is the me I hate (the beast), but that I believe God has created.</p> <p>2) Consequences?</p> <p>a) What are the consequences in our lives of believing these lies?</p> <p>3) Attributes¹</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>FALSE SELF</th> <th>TRUE SELF</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and significance achieved by what we have, what we can do, and what others think of us. Happiness sought in autonomy from God and in attachments. Identity is our idealized self (who we think we should be/want you to believe I am). </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and significance achieved by being deeply loved by God. Fulfillment found in surrender to God and living our vocation (“calling”). Identity is who we are—and are becoming—in Christ. Received as a gift with gratitude and </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	FALSE SELF	TRUE SELF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and significance achieved by what we have, what we can do, and what others think of us. Happiness sought in autonomy from God and in attachments. Identity is our idealized self (who we think we should be/want you to believe I am). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security and significance achieved by being deeply loved by God. Fulfillment found in surrender to God and living our vocation (“calling”). Identity is who we are—and are becoming—in Christ. Received as a gift with gratitude and
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¹ *The Gift of Being Yourself*. 91-92.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved by means of pretence and practice. • Maintained by effort and control. • Embraces illusion as a means of attempting to become a God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surrender. • Maintained by grace. • Embraces reality as the place of meeting and being transformed by God.
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4) Spotting Our False Self²

a) Defensiveness

- i) My false self needs constant bolstering; my defensiveness is usually a reaction to the light by my false self.
- ii) Examples:

If I'm upset at...	Perhaps I...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not being taken seriously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an inflated ego
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being told I'm wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am too prideful

b) Pet Peeves (Mt 7:3)

- i) The thing that bothers me most about others can point to falsity in me.
- ii) Examples:

If I'm upset at your...	Perhaps I want you to see me as...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laziness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-disciplined and performance orientated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playfulness and spontaneity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral disregard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-righteous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotionally controlled

c) Compulsions

- i) Compulsions are often from a God-given trait or desire that we take to excess.

5) Following Jesus

a) His life

- i) Tempted by Satan in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11)³
 - (1) Tempted to power (vv 3-4): an invitation to establish his identity based on his own doing and not his submission to God.
 - (2) Tempted to prestige (vv5-7): an invitation to establish his identity based on his title as Messiah.
 - (3) Tempted to possessions (vv 8-10): an invitation to establish his identity based on what he owned.
- ii) His obedience (Hebrews 5:8)
 - (1) Do I love God ? (Matthew 22:37)
 - (2) Will I commit to a disciplined life? (1Peter 1:16)
 - (3) Do I have the nerve to wait on God? (John 6:38)

b) His struggle—In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-42)

² Ibid. 82-84.

³ Ibid. 86-87.

	<p>i) Will I yield my will to God? ii) Do I trust God? iii) Do I know he loves me deeply and only wants the best for me?</p> <p>c) His Submission—Carrying his cross (Matthew 27:31-32) i) Will I yield to God each day? ii) Do I trust that God will help me in my submission?</p> <p>d) His death—On the cross (Matthew 27:45-50, Luke 23:46) i) Will I let God put me on the cross? ii) Can I be honest with God? (Matthew v 46) iii) Can I hang on the cross unto death of my false self, the “old man”? iv) Do we believe “it is finished”? v) Will I commit my spirit to God? (Luke v 46)</p> <p>e) His resurrection—A new man (Mark 16:9-11) i) Will we trust God’s work in us? ii) Do we believe we are new creations and becoming new creations in Christ?</p> <p>6) Group exercise: a) How is your journey with Christ with respect to dying to self? b) What has helped it? c) What has impeded it?</p>
7:00	<p>Closing Prayer</p> <p>If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. --Jesus (Luke 9:23)</p> <p>Every morning I must say again to myself, today I start. --St. Anthony of the Desert⁴</p>

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Anderson, Neil T. *Victory Over The Darkness*. Regal Books. 2000.
- Benner, David G. *Surrender to Love*. IVP Books. 2003.
- _____ *The Gift of Being Yourself*. Eagle Publishing. 2004.
- _____ *Desiring God’s Will*. IVP Books. 2005.
- _____
- Burrows, Ruth. *Guidelines for Mystical Prayer*. Burns & Oates. 2007.
- Chambers, O. *My Utmost for His Highest: Selections for the Year*. Discovery House Publishers. 1993, c1935
- Dubay, Thomas. *The Fire Within*. Ignatius Press. 1989.
- Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000.
- Sandford, John & Paula. *The Transformation of the Inner Man*. Victory House.

⁴ Quoted in Benner, *Surrender to Love*. 75.

1982.

- Wakefield, James L. *Sacred Listening: discovering the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*. Baker Books, 2006.