

...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

August 8, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Me With Me—Part VIIIa

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) The Performance-oriented person¹ <i>“Performance orientation is a term which refers not to the service we perform but to the false motives which impel us.”</i></p> <p><i>“The constant propensity of the born anew is to fall back to striving by human effort. Our minds and spirits know the free gift of salvation, but our hearts retain their habit to earn love by performing.”</i></p> <p>a) Galatians 3:1-3</p> <p>2) How we find ourselves in the muck and adding to it <i>“The lie becomes part of us through common daily acts...”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You did good, daddy loves you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Inverse we come to believe</u>: If I don’t do good, daddy won’t love me. • Where is my little boy? This can’t be my little boy who acted like this. <p><i>“Performance may soon so intertwine falsely with love that we cannot conceive of being loved unless we have performed rightly. Or worse, we come to believe that not performing earns rejection, so even if someone gives us love, we think we didn’t deserve it and either won’t receive love offered, or false guilt assails.”</i></p> <p>a) We are sinful creatures in a sinful world. It is hard to see very clearly just how trapped we are by the lies. b) 1Corinthians 13:12-13</p> <p>3) Consequences to us <i>“We [get from others] that what we actually are is unacceptable; only the droll image, someone else’s picture for us to act out, can be our identity. Fear strikes the heart lest we fail to be that identity. We dread becoming lost, from others and ourselves, and so lock ourselves into performing. Ironically, to the degree that we succeed in acting out what is wanted, we do in fact become lost from what would</i></p>

¹ Based on Sanders, ch 3. All quotes are from this chapter.

	<p><i>have been us.”</i></p> <p><i>“Not only are we told in many ways that letting the real one [me] live earns rejection, we add to it after awhile that the real one ought not to exist at all...Duality of personality is thus basic to all of us.”</i></p> <p><i>“Performance-oriented people usually work hard to love by serving others but cannot let others close enough to give them love in return.”</i></p> <p>a) We create a “glittering image” and strive to keep the “beast” in the darkest dungeon of our soul. (For an interesting novel about this, read Susan Howatch’s <i>Glittering Image</i>.)</p> <p>b) Possible outcomes to us:</p> <p>i) We come to feel we really are who we are acting out;</p> <p>ii) Below the level of consciousness we can feel like a prostitute;</p> <p>iii) Look for an excuse to blow up at others;</p> <p>iv) AND THEN...In mounting anger, we want to destroy the whole game; to become totally unlovable or sabotage our own career</p> <p>(1) Our inner self may break through in an attempt to be free</p> <p>(2) “Arrival” at success threatens to reveal the hollowness of our delusion that we will be loved when we succeed</p> <p><i>“Success is the wrong answer to the wrong question”</i></p> <p>Continued next week...</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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--Jesus (Luke 9:23)</p> <p>Every morning I must say again to myself, today I start.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--St. Anthony of the Desert²</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.

² Quoted in Benner, *Surrender to Love*. 75.

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- Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000.
 - Peterson, Eugene. *The Way of Jesus: a conversation on the ways that Jesus is the way*. Eerdmans. 2007.
 - Sandford, John & Paula. *The Transformation of the Inner Man*. Victory House. 1982.
 - Wakefield, James L. *Sacred Listening: Discovering the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola*. Baker Books, 2006.