

...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 29, 2008—Atonement—Relationship Restored: Me With Others—Part II

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>1) Our role in healing relationships with others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Main focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 2Corinthians 5:18 b) Wrongs against each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Matthew 18:15-20 c) The hurting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Job 2:11-13 <p>The minister [you and me!] who has come to terms with his own loneliness and is at home in his own house is a host who offers hospitality to his guests...Why is this a healing ministry? It is healing because it takes away the false illusion that wholeness can be given by one to another...Many people in this life suffer because they are anxiously searching for the man or woman, the event or encounter, which will take their loneliness away...When someone comes to a minister with his loneliness, he can only expect that his loneliness will be felt, so that he no longer has to run away from it but can accept it as a basic expression of his basic human condition...Perhaps the main task of a minister is to prevent people from suffering from the wrong reasons. Many people suffer because of the false supposition on which they have based their lives. That supposition is that there should be no fear or loneliness, no confusion or doubt...Therefore, ministry is a very confronting service. It does not allow people to live with the illusions of immortality or wholeness. It keeps reminding others that they are mortal and broken, but also with the recognition of this condition, liberation starts...No minister can save anyone. He can only offer himself as a guide to fearful people...a shared pain is no longer paralyzing but mobilizing, when understood as a way to liberation.¹</p> d) We can only minister to others as deeply as we have let God take us into ourselves. <p>The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity!²</p>

¹ *The Wounded Healer*. 92-93.

² *The Gift of Being Yourself*. 53.

	<p>e) It's hard to sort it out...we are so immersed in performance thinking</p> <p>Grace is not opposed to <i>effort</i>; it's opposed to <i>earning</i>.³</p> <p>The [performance] lie becomes part of us through common daily acts...</p> <p>i) "You did good, daddy loves you." (1) Inverse we come to believe: "If I don't do good, daddy won't love me." ii) Jesus says: "If you love me, you will obey my commands." (John 14:15) (1) <i>We</i> hear, "If you obey my commands, I [Jesus] will love you." (2) <i>Instead</i> of hearing, "For God so loved the world...(John 3:16), that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)...so that whosoever believes in him will have eternal life (John 3:16)"</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.
- Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love and Respect*. Thomas Nelson. 2004.
- Neuhaus, Richard John. *Death on a Friday Afternoon*. Basic Books. 2000.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Wounded Healer*. Doubleday. 1979.
- 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.

³ Dallas Willard quoted in *Leadership Magazine*. Summer 2005. 23. Emphasis added.

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