

The Desire for Intimacy

O how desperately empty is the longing of your heart... - The Eternal Husband, Ezekiel 16

_____ desires a life of intimacy.

1. The desirous _____ Ezekiel 16
Desirous – “Impelled or governed by desire.”

2. The lascivious _____
Lascivious – “Lewd, lustful; excessively driven by sexual desire.”

3. The covenant _____
Creator

Cohabitant (who is really the *Runaway Bride*)

The _____

Challenge: Falling in love with Jesus for heart _____ and
_____!

“The love of Christ controls me!” 2 Corinthians 5:14

Come back next week for applications on ***“Getting Personal with God.”***

DESIRES OF YOUR HEART

Recommended Reading (in order of Mike’s preference, not alphabetical)

Piper, John, [Desiring God](#), Multnomah Publishers, Inc., 2003

Arthur, Kay, [Israel, My Beloved](#), Harvest House Publishers, 1996

Curtis, Brent, Eldredge, John, [The Sacred Romance](#), Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997

Barns, M. Craig, [Yearning, Living Between How It Is and How It Ought to Be](#), InterVarsity Press, 1991

Miller, Calvin, [Into the Depths of God](#), Bethany House Publishers, 2000

Sproul, R.C., [The Soul's Quest for God](#), Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992

Storms, Sam, [Pleasures Evermore](#), Navpress, 2000

Discussion Guide: The Desire for Intimacy

Open: Circle your response to God's use of *love language** in His pursuit of intimacy with you. Explain. (*See Ezekiel 16 and this week's readings.)



I've heard sermons and studies on this theme never/occasionally/often.
Why do you think that is?

1. Agree, Disagree, Discuss, Dismantle these statements

- *Jack and Diane are the typical American church-goer.*
- *I don't think we should talk about this type of thing in church.*
- *Speaking of "falling in love with Jesus" is an overly romanticized expression that is rooted in the feminization of the church.*
- *Falling in love with Jesus is central to overcoming sins of passion such as immorality, pornography, sensual dressing, love of money...*
- *There's a connection between our spirituality and our sexuality.*
- *1 Corinthians 6:19-20 is just a metaphor that can't be taken literally.*
- *2 Corinthians 6:14-18 is telling us, primarily, that having any sort of relationship with unbelievers is spiritual adultery.*
- *Many songs, movies & artistic expressions are either illustrating, echoing or shadowing the love story of the Sacred Romance.*
- *I think the song/movie/art _____ is a great illustration/contrasting point to the Sacred Romance.*

Send mike@ssefc.org your list.

Extra credit for groups sending a video of their performance or lip-sync of the work!

2. Discuss the points below as you consider our Big Idea – *God desires a love relationship of passionate intimacy with us, & that's the true desire of our hearts as well.*

- In your opinion, what is the significance of God using this language and metaphor?
- What sort of response do you think God is seeking by using this language? Relational responses? Emotional responses? Corporate responses?
- If you were preaching next week's sermon, where would you focus the application in answering the call of this week's passages and the question: "How can I cultivate this sacred romance with God?"

Leaders: I would love to get a list of the application points and input to mike@ssefc.org

Prayer Target: Hearts passionately in love with Jesus.

Spend some prayer time in expressing that love – before petitions.

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Lascivious – “Lewd, lustful; excessively driven by sexual desire.”

3. The covenant community

Creator

Cohabitant (who is really the *Runaway Bride*)

The Pursuer

Challenge: Falling in love with Jesus for heart healing and filling!

“The love of Christ controls me!” 2 Corinthians 5:14

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