

Being Known

Who really knows you?

by Gary Delaplane

In other words, how many people deeply and truly know you? I don't mean how many people know your name or have made your acquaintance, but how many people know your heart – your dreams, your fears, your deepest thoughts, your values and your beliefs? In this time of text messaging, internet relationships and never-ending busyness, we often find our relationships continuously becoming shallower. God's desire is for us to know Him intimately and for us to have deeply intimate connections with others.

Most of us want to be known by others – to have intimate relationships with others in which we can “be ourselves,” feel accepted and be open in sharing our thoughts and dreams. God offers us that degree of intimacy but are we so deeply entrenched behind the safety of our facades that we are fearful of tearing down those walls?

Three Hebrew words are translated into the English word “*Intimacy*” and these give us a wonderful insight into the heart of God and His desires for our earthly relationships.

The first of these is *YADA* – *to know; intimate knowledge of another person*. (Jeremiah 1:5, Psalm 139:1). Knowing another person requires **intentionality**. You must seek to know the heart of your wife or your children. That task is never-ending. Make it an adventure. Your wife is not a stagnant individual – she is always changing – and her heart must be pursued in order to be known. It requires that you listen and ask questions. My greatest regret with our children is that I didn't listen to their hearts more passionately and diligently.

The second Hebrew word is *SOD* – *to reveal; vulnerable disclosure*. (Proverbs 3:32). Intimacy requires allowing someone to know you. This requires a **safe environment**. Despite my best intentions, I can know my wife's heart only as deeply as she *allows* me to know it. The question that I have to ask myself is whether or not I create that safety for my wife. Do I validate her feelings? Do I listen without interjecting my opinions? Do I dream the impossible and silly with her without making her feel foolish? On the other hand, am I willing to be open and vulnerable with my wife in a manner that allows her to know me? Am I willing to let down my façade and reveal my true self?

The third is *SAKAN* – *to be of use, service or profit; caring involvement*. (Psalm 139:3). Despite the best intentions and the safest environment, intimacy and being known will not occur without the desire to be caringly involved with another. We all know couples who seem to go through the motions of marriage – essentially living parallel and separate lives. To know and be known requires us to share our lives, our leisure time, our hobbies, our trials and our joys. Do you create an environment in which your wife feels pursued and that you would rather spend time with her than with anyone else?

God knows our hearts; He wants us to know His heart as well. He also created us to have intimate relationships with others - to know others and to be known. What can you change in your life to create these deeper and more meaningful relationships?