

# not a fan.

COMPLETELY. COMMITTED. FOLLOWER.

## choosing intimacy

Let's read a passage that will set the scene. [2] Luke 7:11-17, 36-39.

Tell again with more flavor. **Express the emotion of all in the room.** Describe a Pharisee. Not so much a job as a denomination. Not all bad. Describe what Pharisee didn't do for his guest (posturing?). The woman, [3] Flask pictures, her reputation [4]. "In my house!"

Push pause there, we'll come back to it. Let's talk about intimacy.

When a baby is born it's primary means of communication is crying. The difference between a dad's and a mom's ability to interpret and act. Why intimacy? If mom is away, baby cries, hears mom's voice, stops crying. Why? Intimacy. **Knowing completely and being completely known.**

Until you've experienced intimacy you can't really know what it is. Like tasting something good or bad. It can be explained to you, you can see examples of it, but you can't know it until you know it.

### [5] God knows you intimately

**Genesis 4:1.** Not just an interview or academic thing. The word is yada'. Not in the Seinfeldian sense. Not just a euphemism for sex. Other words for the simple act. An intimate connection on ever level. To know and be known. Since we are talking about it, this is the bigger picture of what sex is supposed to be, in marriage. **Yada' in relationships is "a mingling of the souls."**

The difference between a dating or newlywed couple and a couple married for decades out to eat. *Just don't get caught staring at people!*

Avatar, "I see you." Easily be yada'.

This is going to sound weird in light of some of these pictures, but hang with me here. Over and over again, God says of His people, "I yada' you." Not only that, but He want's to be yada'd by us. Weird?!

**If you don't already have this with the Jesus, this ought to completely change the way you understand and experience your relationship with Him.** Think about the yada' relationships you have with people today. The day-in-day-out connection you

have. Do you think about your relationship with God in terms of that? You can. Does it even compare? It can. Your relationship with Jesus is not a weekend fling, a casual encounter. It's yada', a deep knowing. It's intimacy. [6] Psalm 139:1-4. You know, you know, you know. **God knows you intimately**. Not only does God know you intimately...

## [7] God wants you to know Him

He invites you to know Him intimately. He wants His soul to mingle with yours. The Creator of the universe has opened His heart to you and said, [8] "I want you to know me more closely and more minutely than you know anyone else. I want you to connect with me on a level that can only be reached through the most vulnerable intimacy."

When you come across those kinds of ideas in scripture they sound nice and poetic, like classical literature to be appreciated. But if someone actually said that to you or wrote it in a letter, it could probably freak you out. **Why? Because we don't know how to deal with that kind of intimacy from a source that seems so distant, from someone we don't really know**. Ever write or receive a note like that to someone in school?

Intimacy is scary. It involves being vulnerable, and being vulnerable involves the possibility of hurt. Investment involves the possibility of loss. You open up, they come in, and you get hurt. Or maybe you're the one whose done the hurting and you don't want to do that again.

When we make ourselves vulnerable to God we know He's going to find stuff we don't want found. The thing is, He knows about them anyway. We try to work them off, but the truth is we can't. That's why Jesus came in the first place.

Back to woman in Luke 7. This woman of ill repute knew who she was, what she was, and that she was unworthy to touch let alone be in the presence of the Messiah. We can be the same way, even people who claim to be Christians. We are afraid to be vulnerable, to let Him in and see our crap. We need to be like this woman and get over that.

Followers know that this kind of hurt isn't an reality with God. There is no need to fear rejection or betrayal when we let Him in. "The only thing to fear is fear itself." This is true with the Lord in the context of intimacy. If you are afraid of losing something, then it's probably something that needs to go anyway. But I digress.

One key thing we need to understand as we talk about yada', knowing, and intimacy, is that there is a difference between knowledge and intimacy. See,...

## [9] Fans choose knowledge, followers embrace intimacy

Let's be honest. Intimacy with God looks creepy. It looks fake. It looks hooey-gooley. Jesus movement, Keith Green, some charismatics.

Let's be honest some more. Because of this, Christendom has replaced intimacy with God with weekly Hollywood production value, because you gotta get the people there

and then keep them there, or with a systematic approach to learning about God and the Bible.

There is nothing wrong with production value, and there is certainly nothing wrong with being a student of the word and of our Rabbi Jesus. But those things don't produce intimacy. What if your relationship with your spouse or friends were like that? (Put on a show. Take notes.)

I don't think we are too focused on production value here so let's talk about the second one.

We love having Bible studies. Sometimes people ask why we only have one church-wide one. Why not a mid-week? Nothing wrong with that.

Sometimes I get asked why I don't pass out fill-in-the-blank note-sheets for you guys. Nothing wrong with that.

Some preachers write out their sermons word-for-word and then read them word-for-word. God can use that, but it's more like a lecture.

We have private Christian school from pre-school through doctorates. We get our kids to compete to find or memorize Bible verses.

Again, nothing inherently wrong with any of these. Jesus was a Rabbi which meant that His mission was to be a living example of what it looked like to live out God's word. Which means He studied it and memorized it and went to school. But these things, by themselves, don't produce intimacy.

"We don't need more Bible studies, we need more radically in love followers of Jesus. We have a hard enough time obeying the teaching we already get. Do we really need more?" Tom Stipe, paraphrase.

Fans know about. Followers know. Buddy the Elf and Santa.

The pharisee in [Luke 7](#) seemed to be a fan. Wanted to learn about Jesus, but not open up to Him. Read [\[10\] 7:40-50](#).

Pharisee brought Jesus to the meal but only wanted knowledge. Wanted to keep thing shallow, not washing Jesus', no customary kiss, no oil for His head. The hooker was willing to open up, made herself vulnerable, wash His feet with her tears and hair, and give Him the thing that identified her. **Think about that; now Jesus smelled like hooker. Or, now she smelled like Jesus.**

What about you? Do you yada' Jesus? Will you allow Him to yada' you? Have you given your identity to Him? Do you still smell like to world, or do you smell like Jesus? You were literally created for this. Do you know about Jesus, or do you know Him? Are you a fan, or a follower?

Close with [\[11\] 1 John 5:13](#) thing.