

Lesson Eight Tenacity and Tenderness

We've Proven Ourselves Unworthy of God's Love

- God is in a bad relationship with us. Why?
 - How does God respond?

A Thought to Consider:

How might do we react to bad relationships? How might we change our response?

Married to a Whore

- Hosea –
 - consider Hosea's agony to God's
 - Consider the pain of repeated betrayal
 - Why do you think God commanded Hosea to give his children symbolic names?
 - What two responses does God promise his children in chapter 2 of Hosea?

Passionate Pursuit

- What does scripture reveal about God's "Passionate Pursuit" of His children? Give examples- (110-112)
- How is God's law a "Code of Love?"
- What does this tell us about God's desire for us?
- What is God's Mission?

Known and Loved

- Why are we a conflicted people?
- Why do we tend to engage in behaviors that enlarge our persona? Pg.114
- An old saying.... "The lawyer sees us at our worst, the preacher sees us at our best and the doctor sees us as we are."

A Thought to Consider:

How does it make you feel to know the one who knows you the best, loves you the most?

What if we treated others in similar way?

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Finding fulfillment pg. 115

- What is conditional happiness?
- What do we do to try and find fulfillment?
- Explain how anchoring our identities in God's unchanging love can we find meaning and contentment?

Relating to Others pg.117

- Once our vertical connection is healthy in God, the horizontal ones tend to thrive.
- Internalizing God's love expands our hearts for others. *EXPLAIN*

Transforming Love pg. 118

- Why is it important to keep the knowledge of God's tenacious love in the forefront of our hearts and minds? Pg. 119
 - How can this knowledge change our lives?
- "God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance" Rom. 2:4
 - His kindness is simply too great to leave us in sin. *EXPLAIN*
- "*Resistance is Futile.*" (*Star Trek the Borg*)

A Thought to Consider:

What needs to change in us for us to treat others with a "Tenacity of Tenderness?"

Prayer:

Thank You Lord God for your relentless pursuit of your children. Thank you for not giving up on me. I am not deserving of your faithfulness. Thank you for unconditionally loving me regardless of my sin. Transform my heart Lord, transform my life Lord. Break my spirit of self-centeredness. Anchor my identity in you Lord.

Amen.