

God wants to “rip off our clothes”

Peter Dunnet wrote the following in his 8th teaching on Desire¹:

“God does not want ‘small talk’ from us, he wants to rip off our clothes, so to speak, and have intimacy with us. Scary!”

This is an unusual statement, to say the least. It sets our emotions on edge because it stands opposed to what we understand about an formal, distant God.

Peter was given this metaphor as a download when he was writing his article, so coming straight from our Beloved, we need to comprehend what he's wanting us to know.

Firstly, he's wanting us to be 'naked' before him so that we are transparent in our relationship with him. These sentiments are recorded in scripture in word pictures as well:

Job (NIV) – *The realm of the dead² is naked before God; Destruction³ lies uncovered.*

Hebrews 4:13 (NIV) – *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

Nakedness is a symbol of having nothing to hide, because there are no clothes to cover anything. What-you-see-is-what-you-get, in other words.

This is how we are to be in our relationship with him. Intimacy cannot occur whileever we hide things from him. We must be open and honest with him. This is not for his sake because he can see 'though us', both our façades and what we hide from him. It's for our benefit, because hiding things from him is an indication that we are not open and wanting intimacy.

Secondly, he's wanting to jar us into an understanding that he wants genuine, pure intimacy. He's not interested in us faking it, being half-hearted or religious about it. He wants the type of surrendered, open intimacy that is found between a husband and wife as exemplified by their physical union.

This same imagery is used by our Lord to describe his relationship with unfaithful Israel. To get across his passionate love for the nation and for Jerusalem he uses marital similes to press his point:

Hosea 2:2 (NKJV) – *[God's Unfaithful People]*
“Bring charges against your mother; bring charges;
For she is not My wife, nor am I her Husband!
Let her put away her harlotries from her sight,
And her adulteries from between her breasts;

Ezekiel 16:25 (NKJV) – *You built your high places at the head of every road, and made your beauty to be abhorred. You offered yourself to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your acts of harlotry.*

All of Hosea and Ezekiel chapters 16 are about the Lord being a husband to Israel and her being his unfaithful wife. This is a picture of marriage and intimacy is involved in this arrangement.

This love relationship is not the message we get from an historical reading of these books. It's an obvious message that speaks of intimacy and a love affair between Almighty God and his people, but we dismiss it as poetry instead of embracing it as reality.

1 – Peter Dunnet (2016) "Desire: The Grand Affair" (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Desire8-2016.pdf)

2 – Sheol

3 – Abaddon

This same passionate 'affair' is what Jesus wants with us today, after all, his ultimate goal for us is to be “one” with him – oneness, complete union.

John 17:11, 20-26 (NKJV) – *Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are... “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

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