

Our Ever Present God:
Practicing the Presence of God (Part 2)

Review: Give Him the Pre-eminence - Col 1:18; Matt 6:33; Phil 2:9-11
 Thank Him for Everything - Eph 5:20; 1 Thess 5:18
 Pray Without Ceasing - Eph 6:18; 1 Thess 5:18

We Practice the Presence of God by Living in the Presence of Love - Ps 139:17; 1 Jo 4:8

- Jesus Christ is God's definition and ultimate expression of His Love - Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10
 - ...Love always has the place of supremacy in God's story - Deut 7:7-8; Jer 31:3; Eph 2:4
 - ...Our arrangement with God is a love, not a legal affair
- We practice His presence by nourishing the love affair (not by keeping the rules)
 - 1 Jo 4:19; Rev 2:4
 - ...learn to live life loved - "I am His always being loved child"
 - ...learn to live for love's sake - 1 Jo 4:18
- Develop an ethic of love - II Cor 5:14; Col 3:14; 1 Tim 1:5
 - ...we reign and rule in life as lovers - 1 Cor 13:8
 - ...we learn to think with the mind of Christ: intelligence fueled by love - 1 Cor 2:16; Col 3:17

We Practice the Presence of God by Living in the Presence of Others

- God is a relational Being - Father, Son, and Spirit - Matt 28:19
 - ...we are made in the image of God... to be relational
- Relationships are required for our practice to be made real
 - ...lest our imagination exceed our practice
- Relationships call for the practice of "one-anothering"
 - ...His presence is a Life for others

We Practice the Presence of Others in the Presence of God

- To practice the presence of God is to practice the presence of people - Matt 1:23
 - ...We identify with God's interests in others with the intent to care for them - Phil 2:3
 - ...We look with love, not for it - 1 Cor 13
 - ...We love the reality of others, not the dream
 - ...We serve without reserve - Col 3:23; Matt 25:31-46
 - ...We accept and honor one another - Ro 15:7; Ro 12:10
- When we practice God's presence, we get to be to one another what God is to us