

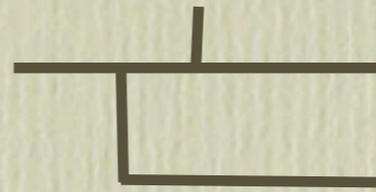
# Intimacy : Meaning



Too busy - Iso gashii



Heart



Destruction

## Mark 6:31-32

Jesus said to his apostles, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure ... And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves.



Matthew 11:28-30



‘I will betroth you  
‘to myself  
‘in tenderness.’

Hosea 2:14

- We all seem to ask, consciously or unconsciously: ‘Am I significant?’, ‘Do I really mean anything to anybody?’
- This is not a curious question to be pondered on my own. It is **a cry to others**, for it really means: ‘Am I significant to you?’
- It is the question we ask of someone who is significant to us: ‘Do you love me?’

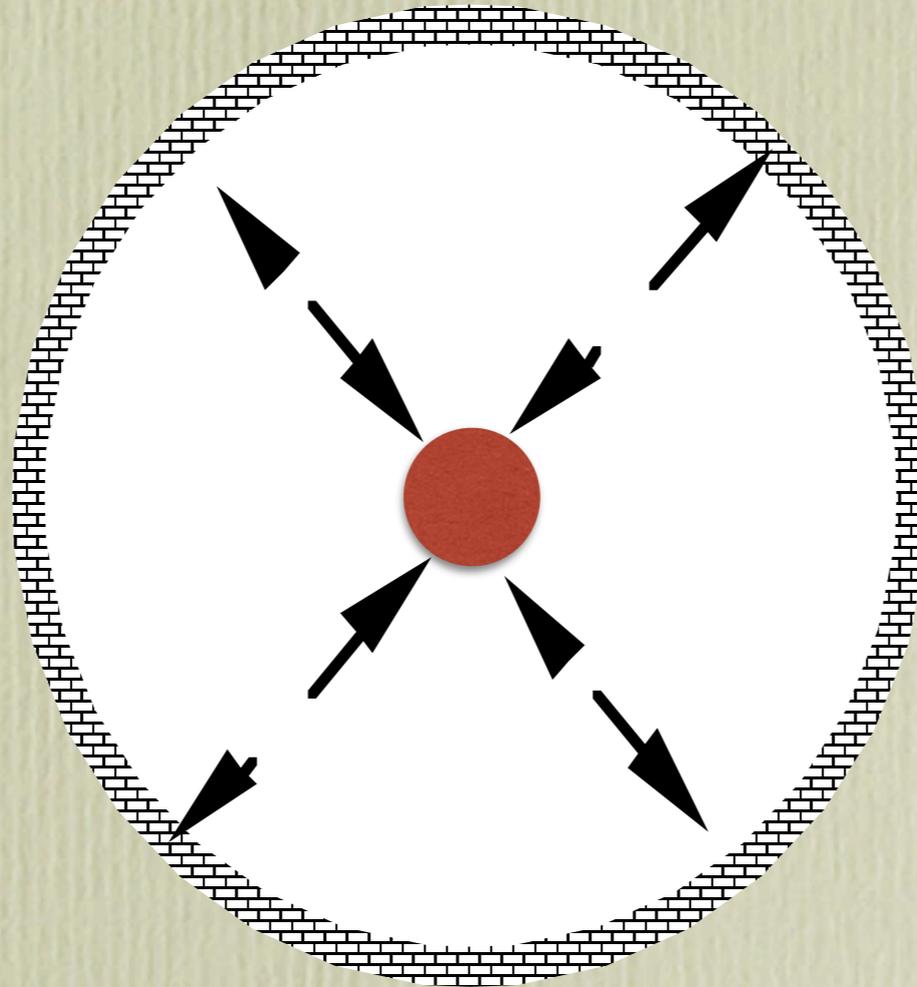
- It is a love question

- We long to be ourselves for another. We long to be ourselves, and we know that this can only be in a love-relationship where the other person wants me to be myself, and to be myself for them. When this happens, we are nurtured, we come alive, we grow, we blossom.
- When we are not confident that this question is being answered, we develop strategies that dull the consequent ache. We try to be independent, so that we can avoid the hurt, the disappointments. We pull back from giving ourselves to others.
- The trouble with this is that these strategies work at the expense of love. Growth from the total dependence of a baby is not towards independence, but towards mutual, freely chosen, personal interdependence.

- It is an ultimate question

- We want to know whether the part-answers (child-parent, child-teacher, peer group, lover) are real answers to our need.
- Am I significant only for now, for this person, here and now?  
Or does my life really have meaning?

- It is a religious question



Religion Re + ligare To bind back

- It is a 'God' question

God Sanskrit **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **To** ('The one')



God 'The Heart and the Beyond  
of Everything'(Teilhard de Chardin)

‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth  
and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

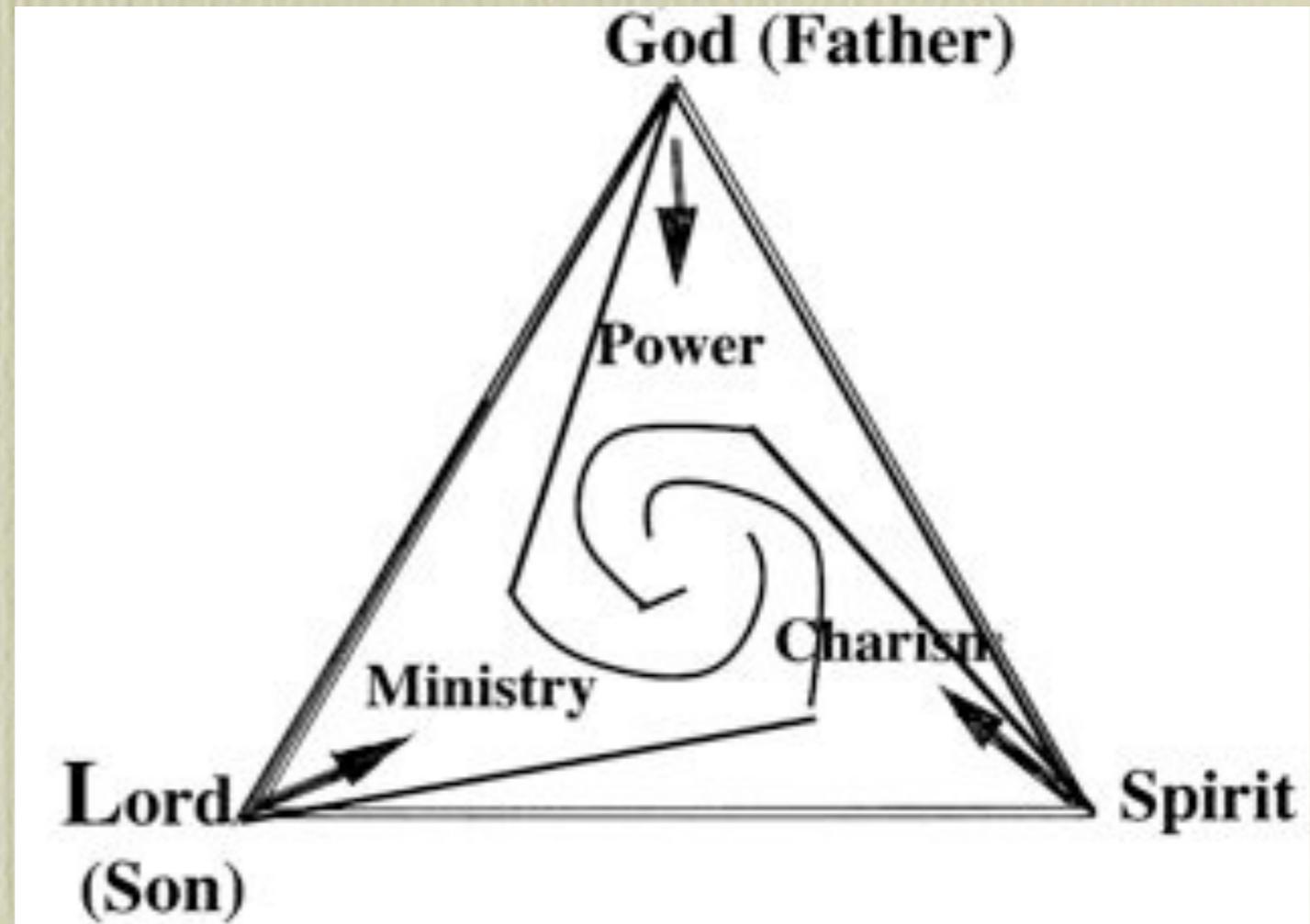
‘Some day,  
after harnessing space,  
the winds,  
the tides  
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God  
the energies of Love.

And then,  
for the second time in the history of the world,  
we shall have discovered fire.’

# 1Cor 12:4-7

‘There are varieties of gifts  
[charisma]  
but the same Spirit;  
there are varieties of ministries  
[diakonia]  
but the same Lord;  
there are varieties of  
ways of exercising power  
[energema]  
but it is the same God who  
activates them all in everyone.



To each is given the manifestation of  
the Spirit for a good purpose.



Jesus, God's Son  
The Dancer, The Singer, The Lover

God the 'Father'

The Dance,  
The Song,  
Love



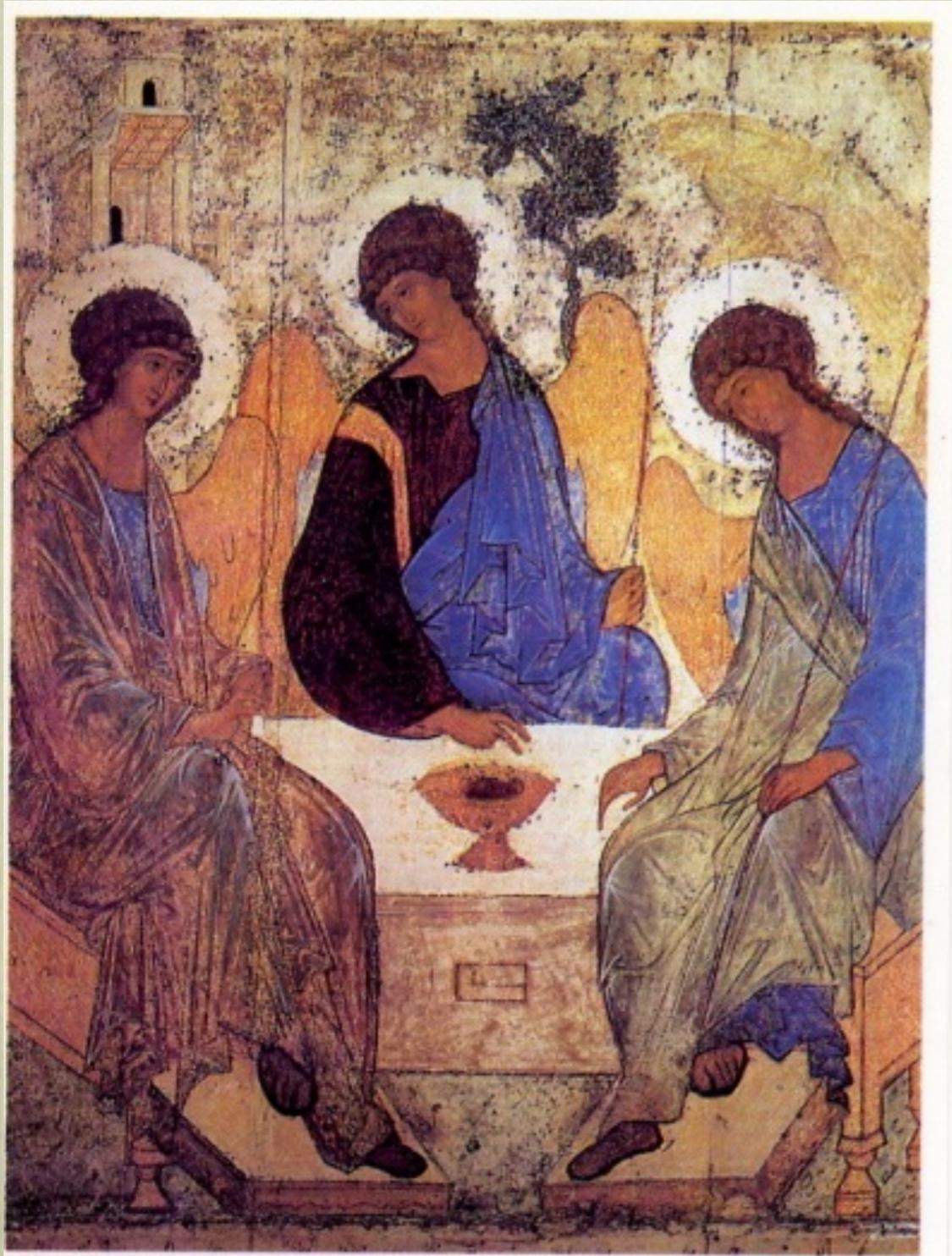
God's Spirit

The Dancing,  
The Singing,  
The Loving

'The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.'  
(2Corinthians 13:13).



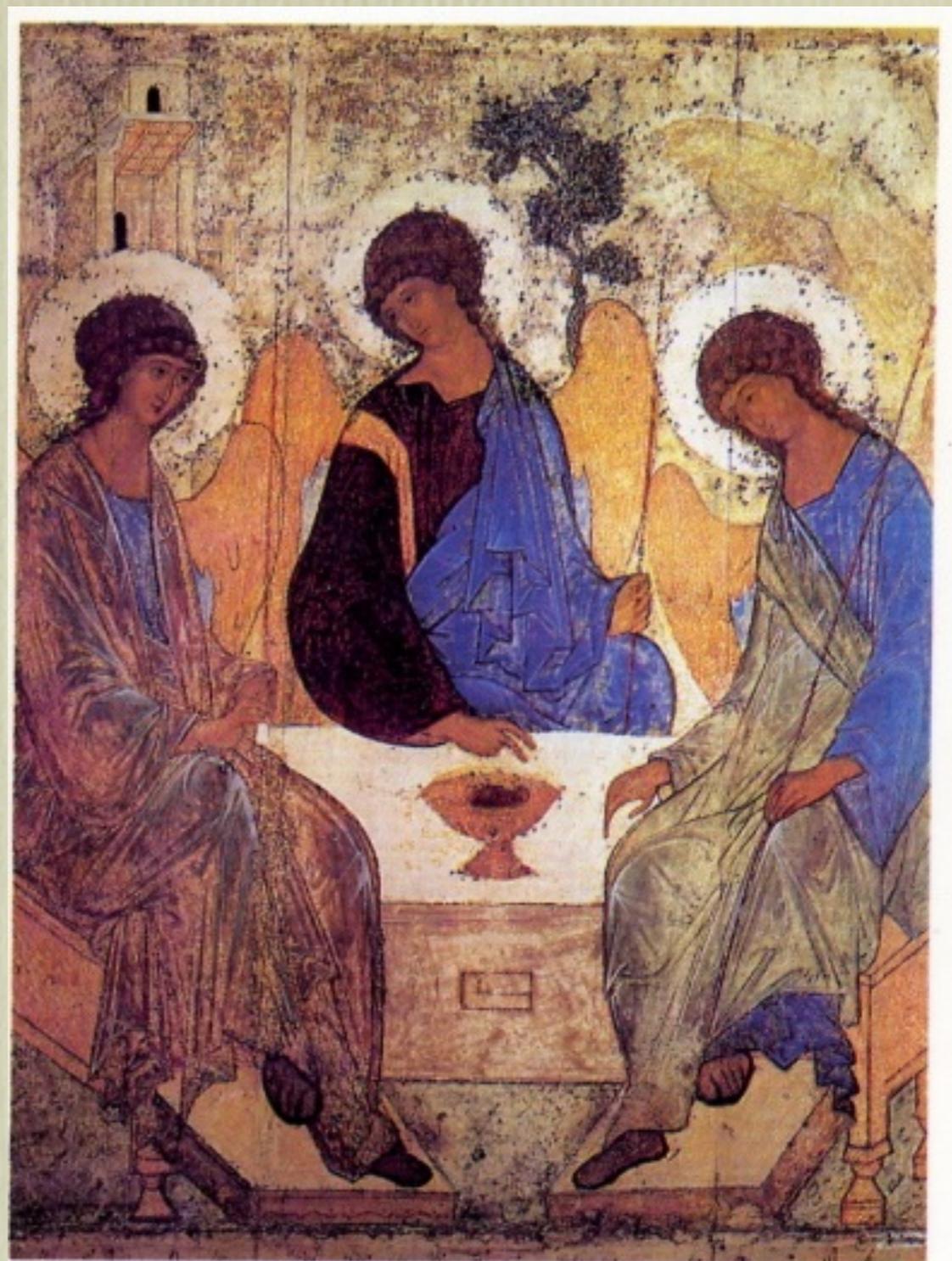
Knowing that God is **Spirit** reminds us to be attentive to the divinely inspired movements of our own heart: movements of longing as we yearn for closer communion with God whose Spirit inspires us; movements of wonder and praise as we rejoice in God being with us. It reminds us to be sensitive to these movements in every man and every woman.



Knowing that God is **Word** reminds us to be attentive to the words and actions through which God speaks to us, and the words and actions through which we respond to God. We learn, too, to reverence the sacred ground of each person's Spirit, and be attentive to each person's Word, as together we journey towards God who is the Source ('Father', 'Mother') of all.

Knowing that God is **Father** reminds us to open our hearts to God's love and to treat every person as our brother or sister.

‘As you, **Father**, are in me and I am in you, may they be one in us ... so that the love you have for me may be in them, so that I may be in them’(John 17:21-26)



Indwelling: John of the Cross

‘O most beautiful of creatures, transcendent spirit, who long to know where your beloved is and where you may find him so as to be united with him. He dwells within you. You are yourself the tabernacle, his secret hiding place. Rejoice, exult, for all you could possibly desire, all your heart’s longing is so close, so intimate as to be within you; you cannot be without him.’

Spiritual Canticle 1,7).

O living flame of love, tenderly wound my soul  
to its deepest inner heart, without oppression.  
Come, consummate our love,  
tear through the veil of our union.  
If it be your will come and rend the veil of the temple.

Yet gently your hand does wound  
as you rend through the veil of my temple.  
Come, take this life that I give,  
So that I might come to live in this our dying.

O lamps of fire in deep caverns of feeling,  
Once obscured and blind  
Are now leading in the warmth  
and the passion of Your love.

## What is Prayer?

Therese of Lisieux:

“Prayer is a surge of the heart;  
a simple look turned towards God,  
a cry of recognition and love,  
embracing both trial and joy.”

Teresa of Avila:

“Prayer is an intimate sharing between friends ...  
taking time frequently to be alone  
with we One who we know loves us.”

“Look at him. He never takers his eyes off you.”

John of the Cross:

“The language God hears best is silent love.”

- Experience of love is a sacred encounter
- Being attentive to this encounter = prayer
- Beauty of those who are caught up in the divine
  - and express their experience in art
  - especially the art of loving.

Saint Dominic

John Henry Newman



“Dear Jesus,  
Help me spread Your fragrance  
everywhere I go.  
Flood me with Your Spirit and Life.  
Penetrate and possess my being so utterly  
that all my life  
may be only a radiance of Yours.  
Shine through me and be so in me  
that every person I come in contact with  
may feel Your presence in my soul.”

- God who holds us in existence dwells in our hearts, wanting us to 'live to the full.
- God does this by drawing us to ever deeper intimacy with himself.
- God is love and the experience of this will bring a profound sense of peace and joy to our hearts.
- As the love-communion deepens we will come to know ourselves more truthfully, because we will come to see ourselves as God sees us.

- We don't have to be different to attract God's attention.
- We don't have to earn God's love.
- Whatever kind of mess I may be in, God is wanting to love me, here and now.
- When we doubt this, we have the prodigal son and Mary of Magdala and the thief on the cross and the leper and dozens of others from the gospels to remind us.
- Only those who truly love us see us as we are. God is love. God knows us in our most intimate reality.

- ‘Come as you are. That’s how I want you. Come as you are. Feel quite at home. Close to my heart, loved and forgiven, come as you are. Why stand alone?’
- No need to fear. Love sets no limits. No need to fear. Love never ends. Don't run away, shamed and disheartened. Rest in my love. Trust me again.
- I came to call sinners, not just the virtuous. I came to bring peace, not to condemn. Each time you fail to live by my promise, why do you think I’d love you the less.
- Come as you are. That’s how I love you. Come as you are. Trust me again. Nothing can change the love that I bear you. All will be well. Just come as you are.’

- We may find this amazing, but it is true. It is the good news preached and demonstrated by Jesus.
- The more we respond to God's invitation to communion, the more we will see ourselves as God sees us - and God sees us as we really are.
- From one point of view this is, indeed, consoling, but it does require that we be prepared to let our masks fall away; we have to be ready to stop deceiving ourselves, kidding ourselves, living in a make-believe world. We have to mature. We have to grow up. Love of any kind requires that. How much more the love of God.

- I am a creature held in existence by the love of God my creator.

- I am a person dear to Jesus

‘You were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body’(1Corinthians 6:20).

‘It is no longer I who live, it is the Messiah who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, loving me and giving himself for me’(Galatians 2:20).

‘The Messiah Jesus has made me his own’(Philippians 3:12).

‘We are the aroma of the Messiah’(2Corinthians 2:15).

I am a temple of the Holy Sprit

It is good to remember the precise ways in which we have experienced being favoured by God. God is love and 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'(Romans 5:5).

True love of self is our sharing in God's love for us, a love which is a gift of grace.

I am a person who belongs to the world and to my fellow creatures, especially other people. Because we belong to others, love is the way we are meant to be: being a willing gift to others that expresses and realises a transcending of one's present self and that creates the proper environment which enables another to respond in love.



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‘in tenderness.’

Hosea 2:14