

The Romance of God (The Death of Fear and the Birth of Faith)

Revelation 19:1-10

(What's the best kiss you've ever experienced? What made it so great?)

- What do you think God desires to be the outcome of all the drama that takes place in the Revelation?
- Do you think God hopes for or anticipates a response? If so, what kind of response?

The response God is looking for might be different than we expect. There are a few specific commands to John like "Write," "Measure," "Come up here" and there is a command to "Come out of her my people." But in sixteen of the twenty-five commands we've encountered so far, John, and we, have been commanded to "Look" or "Behold." And now in Revelation 19:10 **"Worship God."**

- Does that surprise you?
- Why do you think God desires for us to simply look or behold?
- Does looking/beholding seem like a productive use of your time? (God seems to think it is)
- Can you think of a time when you simply & truly looked at or beheld something? Explain.
- When you have taken the time to truly look at or behold something, what have you experienced in the midst of that and as a result of that?
- God also commands us to worship. What do you think worship is?

The Greek word for kiss is *proskuneo*. *Pros* is a prefix meaning toward...*Kuneo* means to kiss.

- Have you ever thought of worship as kissing God?
- Can you think of a time or times when you experienced kissing God or a kiss *from* God? Share.

"This is Love," wrote John, "not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent his son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10 NIV).

- We often think that love is all about what we bring to the table, but the above scripture seems to reveal that love isn't about what *we* can do but what *God* has done for us.
- How does this change your perspective about what it means to love God?
- How does this change your perspective about what it means to love others?
- If you focused on love being about what God has done and not about what you should do, do you think the act of love would come out of a different energy? How might that look practically?

The harlot dressed *herself* in gold, jewels, and pearls. The bride *is* gold, jewels, and pearls.

The harlot was trying to *make* herself beautiful, to get what she wanted. The Bride *is* beautiful, for she knows that she is wanted by the Groom.

- Do you know in the depths of your being that you are gold and unconditionally loved by God or do you feel you have to glam yourself up for Him?
- In this sermon Peter shared about how his first kiss with his wife wasn't that great because of fear, but when she knew she didn't have to earn Peter's love, that it is sealed by a covenant and freely given, his kisses with his wife were fantastic.
- Do you think your view of God and His love for you might affect your ability to worship Him?
- Do you feel secure enough in God's love for you to kiss Him or allow Him to kiss you (Kissing is very intimate) ?
- Are there any fears that keep you from that in general or in specific areas?
- Set aside some time to confess any fears you might have to God and ask Him to reveal the depths of His unconditional love to you. Listen to His voice & let Him speak to you about His relentless love for you.

**These questions were created by Kimberly Weynen*