

Doors and Dining: Is it a one-sided relationship?



Do You Three-Twenty?

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A few months ago, I sat in the midst of some **children** at lunchtime. I asked if anyone wanted to **say a prayer** over our food. All the kids either looked at each other or at the floor, and one by one they said, "**No, thanks.**"

While I knew all their families **regularly prayed** over their meals, I understood how **kids** may **feel self-conscious or embarrassed praying out loud**, so I readily offered to **say the prayer** myself. As usual, I welcomed God's presence into our gathering and asked Him to bless our food and conversation.

As these **precious young ones** enjoyed their food, I watched their faces and took joy in the simplicity of their age. Glancing around the long table, I noticed there was one empty seat. I imagined Jesus sitting there, delighting in the **children**-- and me-- as we spent time together.

Later, the Lord took me back to one of my all-time favorite Scriptures-- one of the many verses that He's made very personal to me over the years:

Revelation 3:20,
**"Behold, I stand at the door and knock.
If anyone hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and dine with him,
and he with Me."**

As the Lord loves to do, He took me far deeper than I'd ever gone with this verse. He began with the first word:

"Behold!"

The Greek word for 'Behold' here means '**See!**' It can also mean '**Observe! Consider!**' It is not a typical bidding to casually attend to what is being said or heard; more so, it's **a call to attention with demonstrative force**. It's an **imperative**. It may also indicate the introduction of something new.

With that, Jesus indeed had my attention.

Then came His series of gentle questions:

*Leanna, I stand at the door and knock.
Do you hear My voice?*

"Yes, Lord," I answered. "I hear Your voice."

Will you open the door?

"Yes, Lord," I answered. "My door is open. All I have is Yours.
Who I am is all for You. My life is Yours.
You know me better than I know myself. You are welcomed in!
Reveal what You bid me to see."

As I waited on the Holy Spirit, the last part of Revelation 3:20 echoed over and over:

***"...I will come in to him and dine with him,
and he with Me...
and he with Me...
and he with Me..."***

At this, I was undone.

I felt like crying out with the prophet Isaiah, saying, 'Woe is me!'

A flurry of situations crossed my mind, when Jesus had faithfully 'dined with me,'
but...I had not 'dined back.'

I hadn't given that part of the verse much thought in the past.

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit didn't leave me there. He then taught me the root word for 'dine,' or 'sup,' in Revelation **3:20**. Thayers Greek Lexicon literally defines its application in this verse as in an allegory, with God saying of His **children**,

"I will make him to share in My most intimate, blissful intercourse."

Now that's **close, deep relationship**.

I recalled the picture of Jesus sitting at the table with all the **children** earlier that day. We'd welcomed His presence to be with us. Indeed, He'd dined with us.

Had we 'dined back' with Him?

I thought of my time at my own family meals. We welcome Him at every seating.

Do we 'dine back' with Him?

While I'm washing dishes, as I take a shower, while I'm about His business throughout the day, I ask Him frequently to spend time with me, to help me, to speak to me.

As He does, am I doing the same back?

CHALLENGE:

In examining the context of Revelation 3, it is clear that Jesus is speaking to **believers**. If I were to paraphrase this verse (in no way re-wording God's glorious Word-- just putting it to 'conversation' to further capture its depth), it could go something like this:

Children of Mine, See! Give me Your attention!

This is imperative-- it's a **MUST**:

I long for you to share in the most

intimate, blissful relationship with Me.

You can have this with Me right here, right now--

I'm calling with my voice. Do you hear Me?

Fling open all those doors and let Me in!

I'm faithful to have **intimacy** with you--

will you be so with Me?

Intimate relationship with Me is **bliss**.

Intimate relationship is not one-sided.

It requires **honest, open** communication.

Even if we feel **self-conscious**, He wants us to talk to Him.

Out loud. About everything. Any time. All day.

Right now.

Please don't feel **embarrassed**-- He knows everything already anyway.

Wherever we are in our **relationship** with God, we can always go deeper. Oh Bride of Christ, let's 'dine back' with our Savior!

*Few are the days left when we will **relate** with God by faith.*

*We will **soon** be with Him face-to-face,
no longer needing faith to **pray out loud**.*

Until then, let's **Three-Twenty!**

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