

## CONFESSION FOR RELATIONSHIP

**Love: The deep desire to know and to be known**

*“Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but to pour them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and then, with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away.” – Dinah Maria Craik*

### Steps for Relationship Building

- Initiation: First impression, initial contact
- Investigation: Getting to know each other, discovery
- Intensification: Going deeper, openly sharing
- Integration: Merging together, influenced and influencing
- Bonding: Closeness, Oneness

### Confession to God

- Initial confession: small talk, greetings, careful sharing
  - Recited prayers, praise, requests, petitions
- Getting to know Him: sharing myself, checking His response
  - Conviction, forgiveness, reconciliation
  - Worship, discovery, reverence (Matt 13:10-11)
- Going deeper: vulnerability and safety in prayer/conversation
  - Exposure, complete vulnerability, building trust (do You still love me?)
- Integration: sharing and listening, caring about His perspective
  - Exploration, His secrets, personal interaction (Psalm 25:14)
- Bonding: having the mind of Christ, what He feels, thinks, and wants
  - Meaningful participation (Gen 18:17 ff)

### Confession and Reflection

- Interrogating beliefs: “Lord, I believe (confess) ... Show me the truth.”
  - Confirmation or correction
- Elimination of shame (which separates)
  - Confession brings all to light
  - Forgiveness expunges guilt
  - Traits and gifts are redeemed (John 1:47-49)
- Freedom to share
  - Hearing and speaking His secrets (Dan 2:19-22, 1 Cor 14:24-25)
  - Verbal processing, attitude checker
  - True friends can say anything (John 15:15-16)

Spend time each day having deep and meaningful conversations with God!