

# Divine Intimacy in Marriage

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FINDING  
FREEDOM AND JOY  
IN MARRIAGE

Divine Intimacy Is  
What You Were Made For  
Why You Exist

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# EXORCISM AND THE POWER OF A HOLY MARRIAGE

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# THE GOAL AND THE LAW OF THE GIFT (SMP)

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The "law of the gift," is written in every human heart. In the beginning of the theology of the body, St. John Paul II reveals that it is based on man being made in the "image" of the Triune God (Gen. 1:26). Since God exists as a communion of three divine Persons giving themselves completely in love to each other, man and woman — created in the image of the Trinity — are made to live not as isolated individuals, each seeking his or her own pleasure and advantage from the other. Rather, man and woman are made to live in an intimate personal communion of self-giving love, mirroring the inner life of the Trinity. In the end, human persons will find the happiness they long for when they learn to live like the Trinity, giving themselves in love to others.

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# THE CHAIR

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- ❖ Broken Family
- ❖ Marriage Challenges
- ❖ Near Death - Commitment
- ❖ Seminary
- ❖ Marital Abandonment
- ❖ Catholic Conversion
- ❖ Marriage or Priesthood?
- ❖ Reserved
- ❖ The Power of A Christ-Centered Marriage
- ❖ My Father's Dying Decision



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# THE ALABASTER JAR

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PSALM 90 - THE PROMISE OF GOD  
& THE PRAYER OF OUR HEARTS  
(DB)

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In the morning, fill us with your love;  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.  
Give us joy to balance our affliction  
for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants;  
let your glory shine on their children.

Let the favor of the Lord be upon us:  
give success to the work of our hands.  
give success to the work of our hands.

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# REVIEW

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- ❖ Sacramental Marriage is so Powerful that it Can Protect an Exorcist and Transform Your Life, the Lives of your Children, and the World Around You – Push Back the Darkness!
- ❖ To the Degree that we say “Yes” to God, we Unleash or Fully Live the Life of Grace Available through This and all the Sacraments
- ❖ To the Degree we Say ”No” to God, we are Thereby Saying “Yes” to the Devil and His Desire for Our Marriage and Life
- ❖ No Matter How Broken or Sinful Your Life has Been – There is Hope
- ❖ Assignments are Coming – Say “Yes” To His, Work and your Challenging Marriage will Improve, and your Healthy Marriage will Get Better

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# THE GOAL AND THE LAW OF THE GIFT (SMP)

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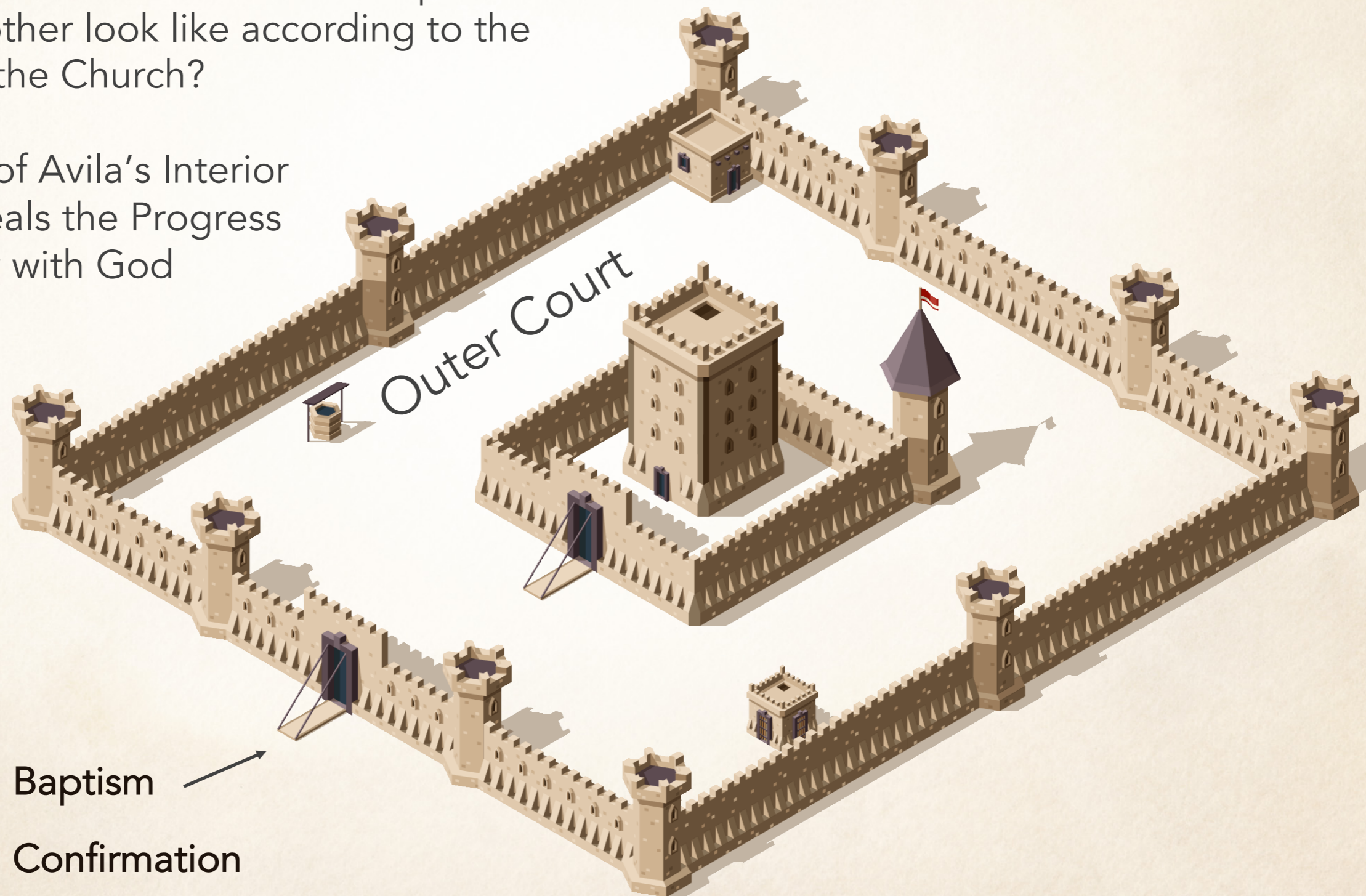
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# ENTERING INTO THE OUTER COURT OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD (DB)

What does an authentic relationship with God and each other look like according to the mystics of the Church?

St. Teresa of Avila's Interior Castle reveals the Progress of Intimacy with God and Each other



# ENTERING INTO THE CASTLE AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD (DB)

“...I can understand that the door of entry into this Castle, is prayer and reflection.”

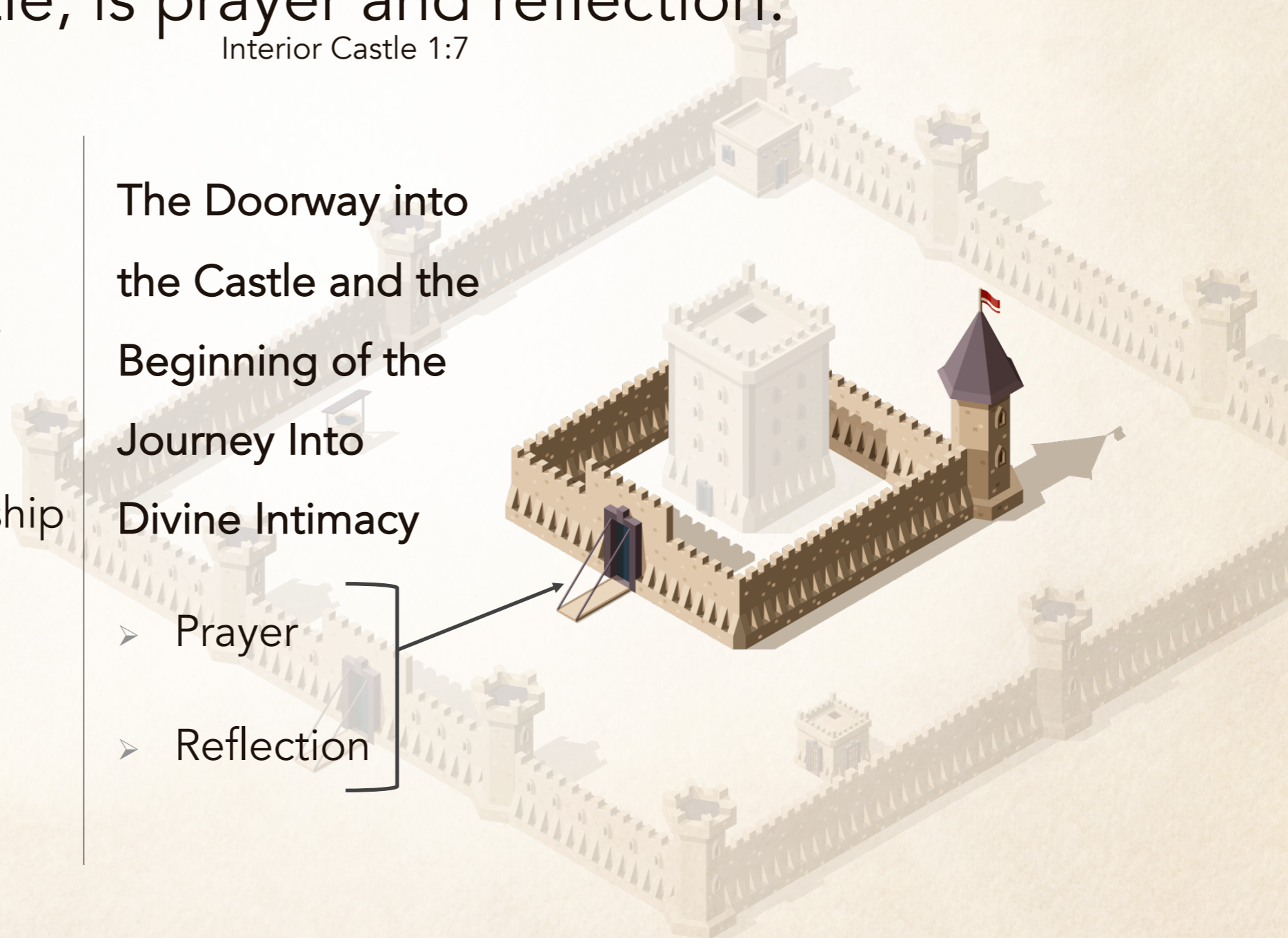
Interior Castle 1:7

## The Outer Court

- ❖ Great Potential
- ❖ Little to No Real Prayer
- ❖ No Self-Knowledge
- ❖ No Growth in Relationship
- ❖ No Real Intimacy
- ❖ No Lasting Joy
- ❖ In Need of Healing

The Doorway into  
the Castle and the  
Beginning of the  
Journey Into  
Divine Intimacy

- Prayer
- Reflection



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# INTO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM OF THE CASTLE (DB)

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Good Desires But In Need of Greater  
Self-Knowledge of the Reality of  
Good and Evil

Distractions

- ❖ Possessions
- ❖ Honor
- ❖ Business
- ❖ Accomplishment

Prayer Is Present But Inconsistent

Intimacy is Weak but the Relationship  
Begins to Develop



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# INTO THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ROOM OF THE CASTLE (DB)

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Daily Prayer Increasing along with Daily Examen

Receptive to the Promptings and Invitations of God

- ❖ Good Books and Sermons
- ❖ Trials
- ❖ Holy Friendships Develop

Awareness of Spiritual Warfare Begins to Emerge

Needs Determination to Persevere and Desire for God's Will



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# 3<sup>RD</sup> ROOM AND BEYOND (DB)

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Persevering in Daily Prayer and Examen

Emerging Desire not to Offend God

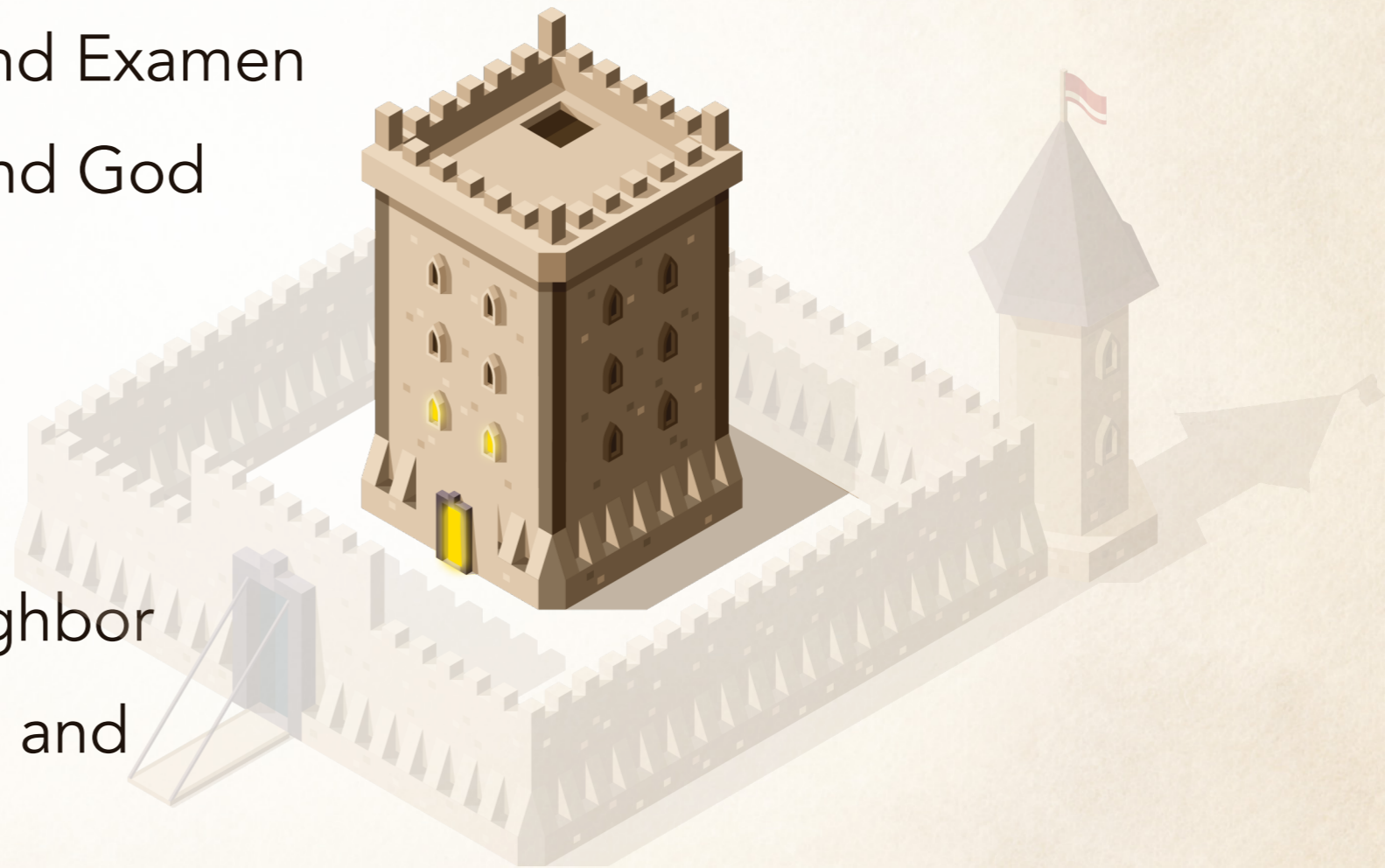
Guarding Against Venial Sin

Fond of Ascetical Practices

Uses Time Well

Practices Charity toward Neighbor

Balance of Speech and Dress and  
Management of Household



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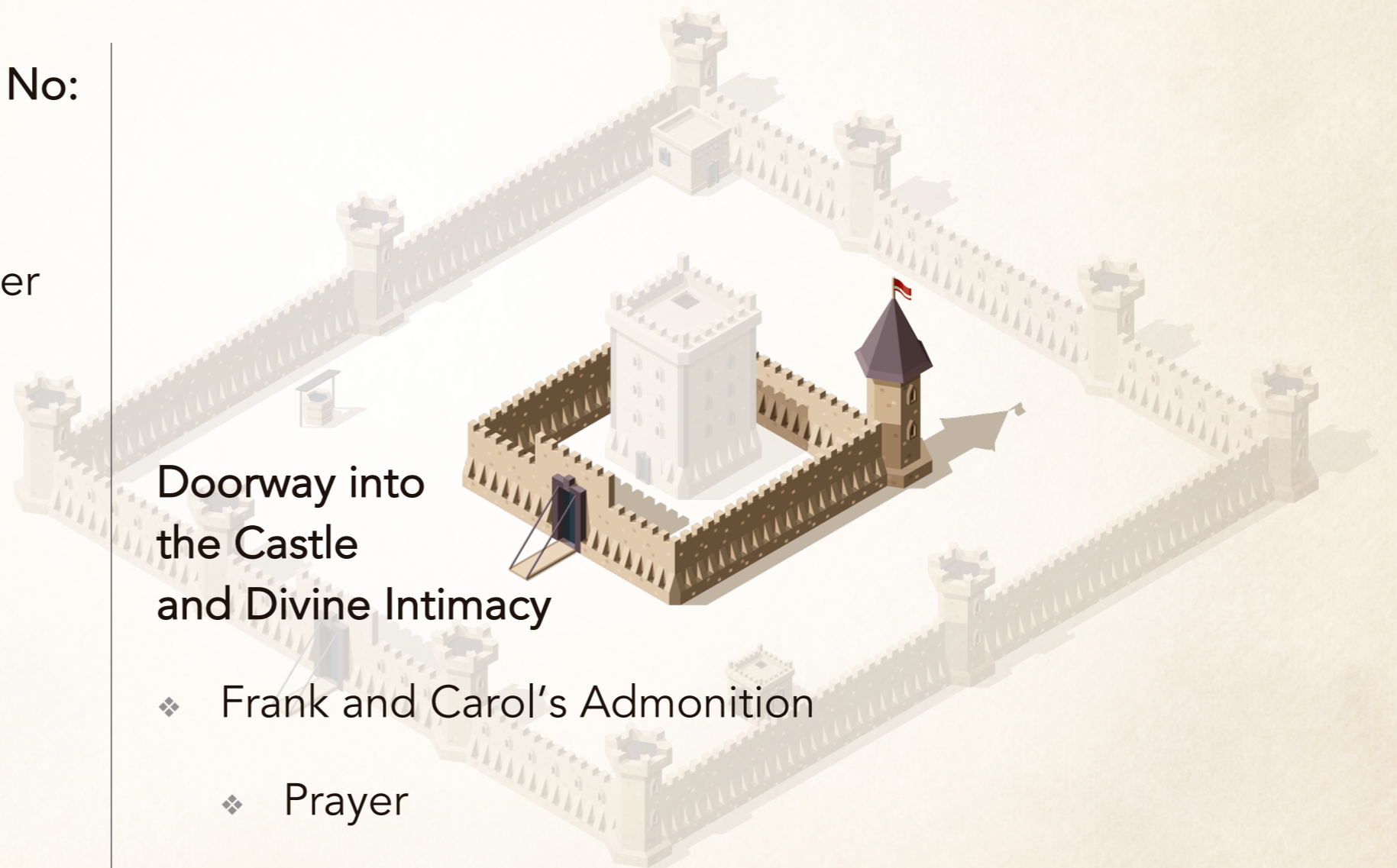
# ENTERING INTO AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER (SMP)

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## The Outer Court - Little to No:

- ❖ Intimate Conversation
- ❖ Personal or Couple Prayer
- ❖ Self-Knowledge
- ❖ Growth in Relationship
- ❖ Real Intimacy
- ❖ Real Joy
- ❖ Mutual Vulnerability

In Need of Healing



## Doorway into the Castle and Divine Intimacy

- ❖ Frank and Carol's Admonition
  - ❖ Prayer
  - ❖ Reflection & Feedback
  - ❖ Don't Let Go – Don't Run Away

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# INTO DIVINE INTIMACY (1<sup>ST</sup> ROOM)

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Good Desires But In Need of Greater Self-Knowledge of the Reality of Good and Evil and How it Works In Relationships

Distractions:

- ❖ Possessions/Household Needs
- ❖ Honor/Power/Position
- ❖ Business/Finances

Personal and Couple Prayer and Intimate Conversation With One Another is Inconsistent

How to Progress Through This Room to Deeper Relationship?

- ❖ Mental Prayer – Time with Jesus in the Gospels
  - ❖ Intimate Conversation and Time Together (Avoid Roommate Syndrome)
  - ❖ Increased Sacramental Participation
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# 2<sup>ND</sup> ROOM OF DIVINE INTIMACY

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Personal Prayer Increasing and Couple Prayer in Rhythm

Daily Examen in Place

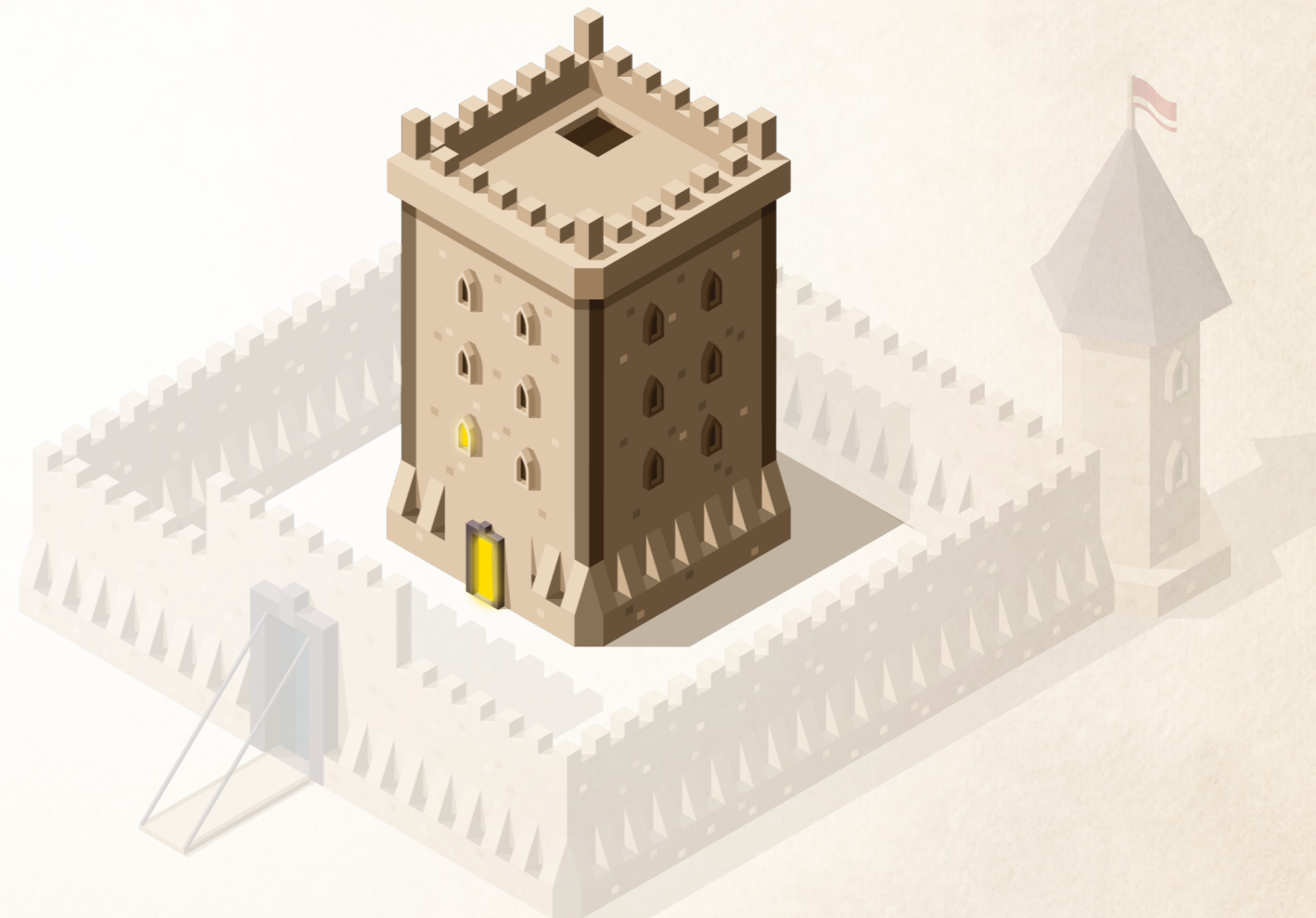
Greater Receptivity to the Promptings and Invitations of Deeper Relationship (HS)

- ❖ Good Books and Sermons Together
- ❖ Trials Faced Together (Fear)
- ❖ Holy Friendships Developing

Awareness of Spiritual Warfare Begins to Emerge

Seek Spiritual Guidance

Needs Determination to Persevere and Desire for God's Will to Move Deeper Into Divine Intimacy





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# 3<sup>RD</sup> ROOM OF DIVINE INTIMACY

## (AND BEYOND)

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Persevering in Daily Mental Prayer and Examen

Emerging Desire not to Offend Spouse or God

Guarding Against Venial Sin against Spouse or  
God

Fond of Ascetical Practices – Purposeful

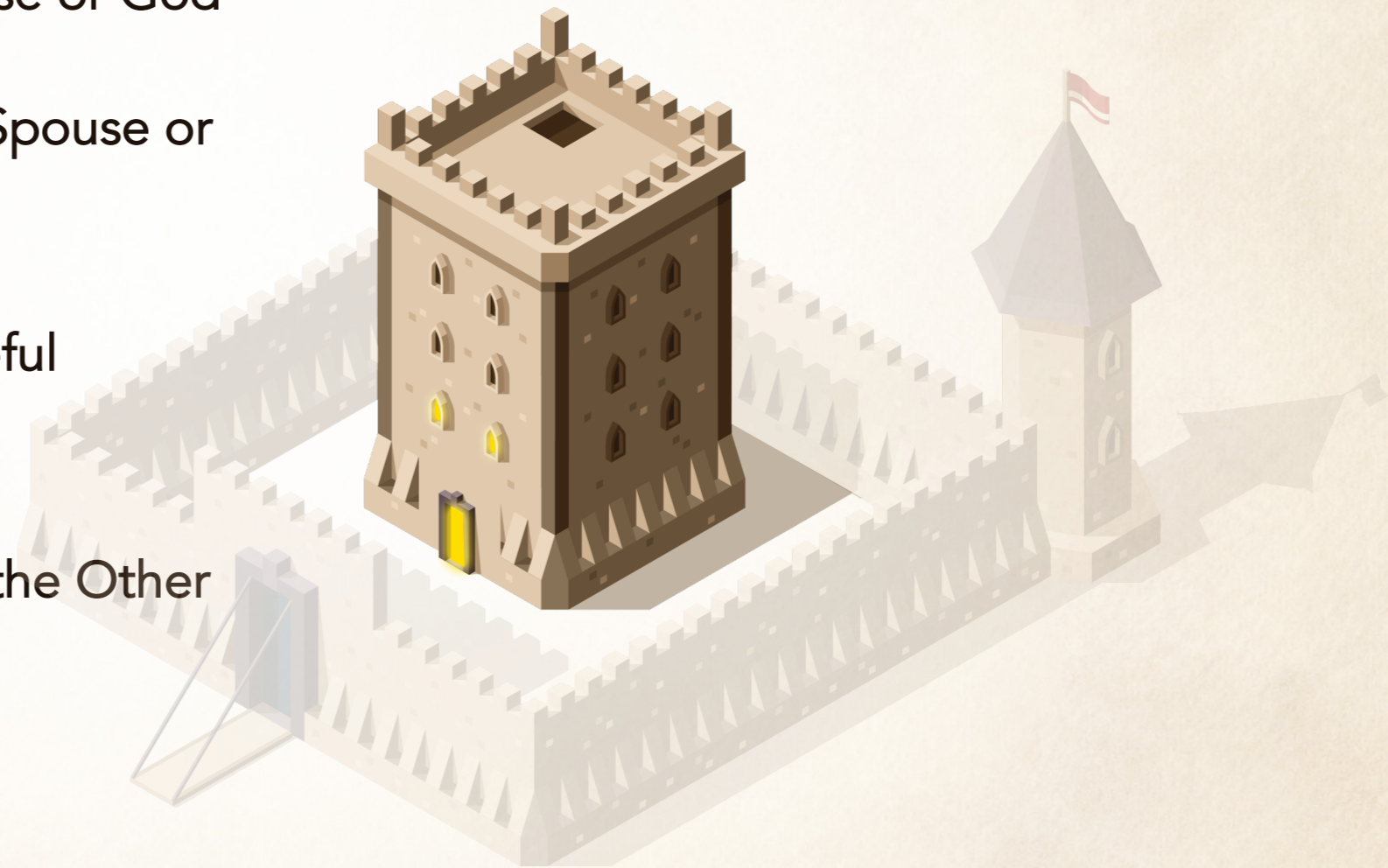
Self Giving to the Other

Uses Time Well to Enable Service to the Other

Deliberate Practice of Charity toward

Spouse and Neighbor

Balance of Speech and Dress and Management of  
Household



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# AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS?

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## **Are you an authentic disciple of Jesus?**

Are you constantly growing and improving your relationship with Him?

Is the world around you changing for the better?

## **Do you have an authentic relationship with your spouse?**

Is your relationship with your spouse constantly growing/improving?

If not, why not and what are you going to do about it?

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# THE GOAL AND THE LAW OF THE GIFT

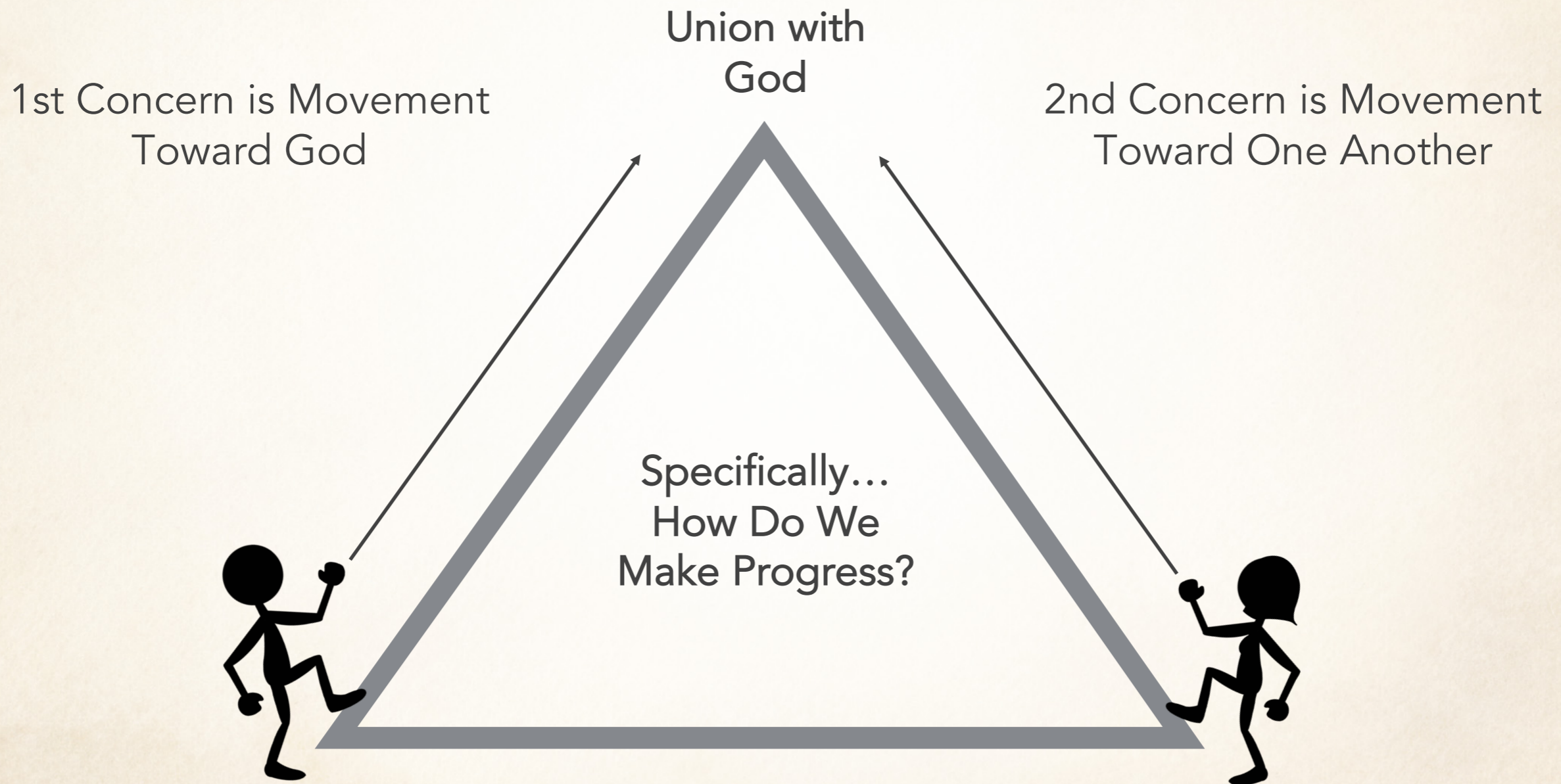
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# THE ASCENT TO ONENESS TO DIVINE INTIMACY (DB)

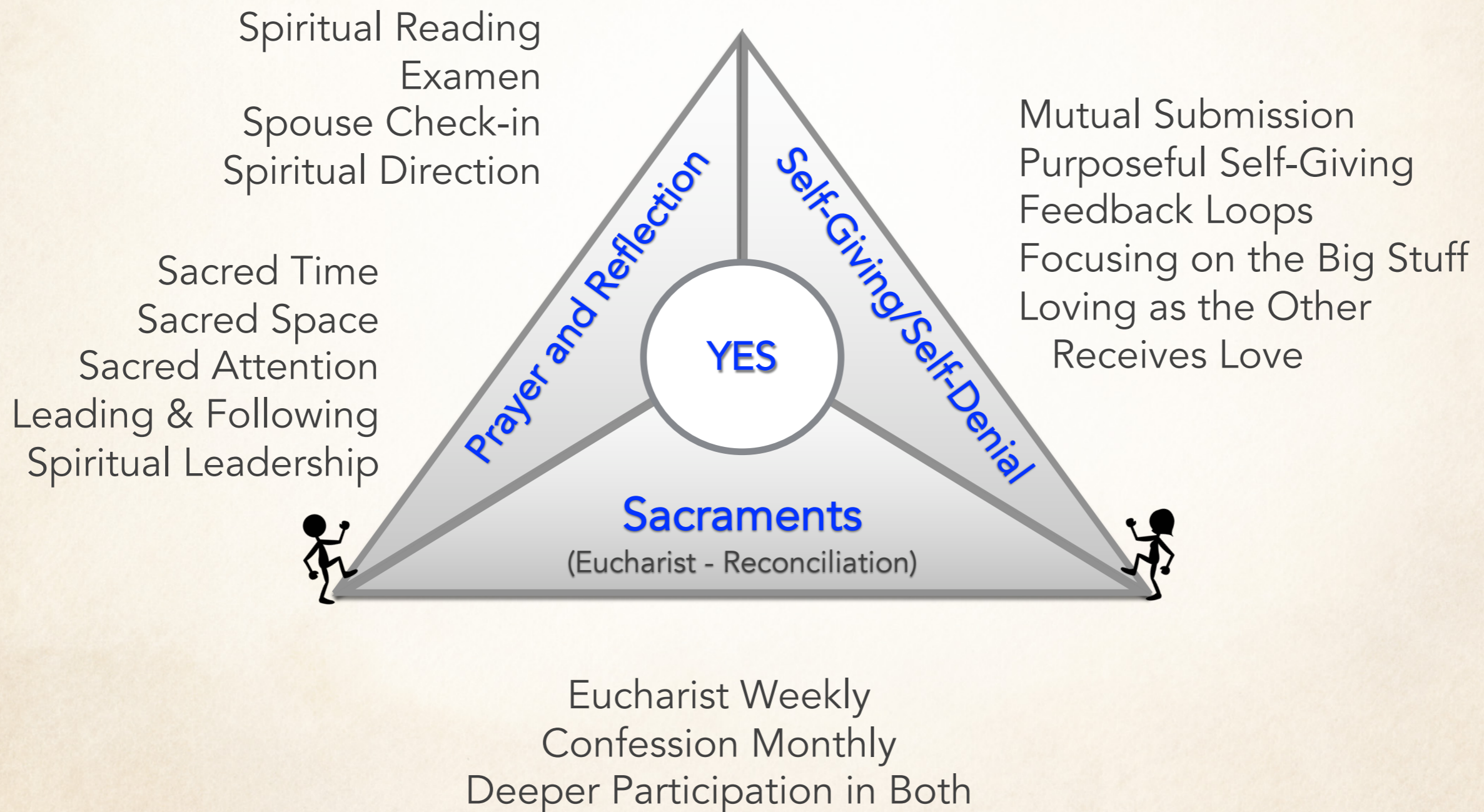
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Where am I on this journey as it relates to my spouse and to God?

# THE ASCENT TO ONENESS TO DIVINE INTIMACY (D&S)

All in or Not In At All



# PROGRESS IN SHEDDING SIN & LIVING A NEW REALITY IN RELATIONSHIP

Awareness Understanding and Action Begin to Break the Reactive Cycle

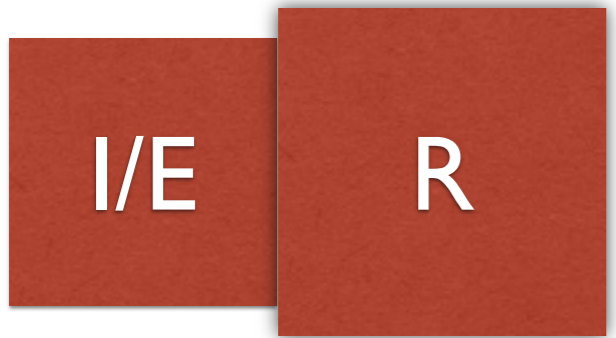
Grace Filled Disconnect and Distance Between Event and Response



Holy Response (not reaction) is Independent from Inspiration or Event

Space to Think Pray, Examine Self & Situation & Fight Sin Emerges and then Increases

"God withholds Himself from no one who perseveres. He will, little by little strengthen that soul, so that it may come forth victorious." St. Teresa of Avila – Life 11:6



- I/E = Inspiration or Event
- R = Reaction
- Red/Green = Good Reaction mixed with sin or Bad reaction and virtue
- Solid Green = Holy Response

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# ST. MAXIMILLIAN KOLBE

## (SMP)

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Through obedience we transcend our own limitations and align ourselves with God's will, which, with infinite wisdom and prudence, guides us to do what is best. Moreover, as we become filled with the divine will, which no created thing can resist, so we become stronger than all others.

This is the path of wisdom and prudence, this is the one way by which we can come to give God the highest glory. After all, if there had been another, better way, Christ would certainly have shown it to us, by word and by example. But in fact sacred Scripture wraps up his entire long life in Nazareth with the words "*and he was subject to them*" and it shows the rest of his life to have been passed in similar obedience – almost as an instruction to us – by showing how he came down to Earth to do the Father's will.

Brethren, let us love him above all, our most loving heavenly Father, and let our obedience be a sign of this perfect love, especially when we have to sacrifice our own wills in the process. And as for a book from which to learn how to grow in the love of God, there is no better book than Jesus Christ crucified. (LOTH Office of Readings)

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# EPHESIANS FIVE

## LOVE AND RESPECT (SMP)

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21 **Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.** 22 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 Even so husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the church; 33 however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.



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SUBJECT TO ONE  
ANOTHER

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**Navigating Dangerous Territory**

Dan Leads – Stephanie Follows

**Navigating the Divine Intimacy Retreat**

Stephanie Leads – Dan Follows

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# REFLECTION – EPHESIANS

## 5 HUSBANDS

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21 Be **VULNERABLE** and **OPEN** to one another **AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP**. 25 **BE GENTLE, PATIENT, and SELF-SACRIFICING** with your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 ...husbands should **CHERISH and GENTLY CARE FOR** their wives as their own bodies. He who **CHERISHES and NOURISHES** his wife **CHERISHES and NOURISHES** himself. 29 For no man ever hates his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man shall **LEAVE** his father and mother and be **JOINED** to his wife, and the **TWO SHALL BECOME ONE.**" 32 This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the church; 33 however, let each one of you **love his wife as himself...**

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# THE DEVIL HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE NARCISSISM AND VICTIMHOOD (DB)

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**Seek to dominate one another and hide behind the veneer of piety.** Wives, rule your husbands, because the Lord knows you know better. Your husband should also know that he is the source of the problems in your home and your frustrations. For the husband is to be weak and to follow not lead. Husbands, your wife's salvation is not your concern. Your role is to abdicate your leadership to to her, or criticize her because she is not doing what you want. Husbands do your own thing - keep her in line – remember that she is the source of your unhappiness and the problems in your home. You are number one – make sure your spouse knows it. Also, be sure that your mother-in-law has a strong say in your marriage. She knows best. Husbands, never forget that your wife is the problem, she needs to get in line. You need to tell her so. Wives, remember, your husband is the problem. He needs to get in line and get with the program. Husbands, be dismissive, harsh and irritated with your wives. Wives, nag, disrespect and disregard the leadership and role of your husbands and all will be well for both of you on your road to hell.

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# EPHESIANS FIVE

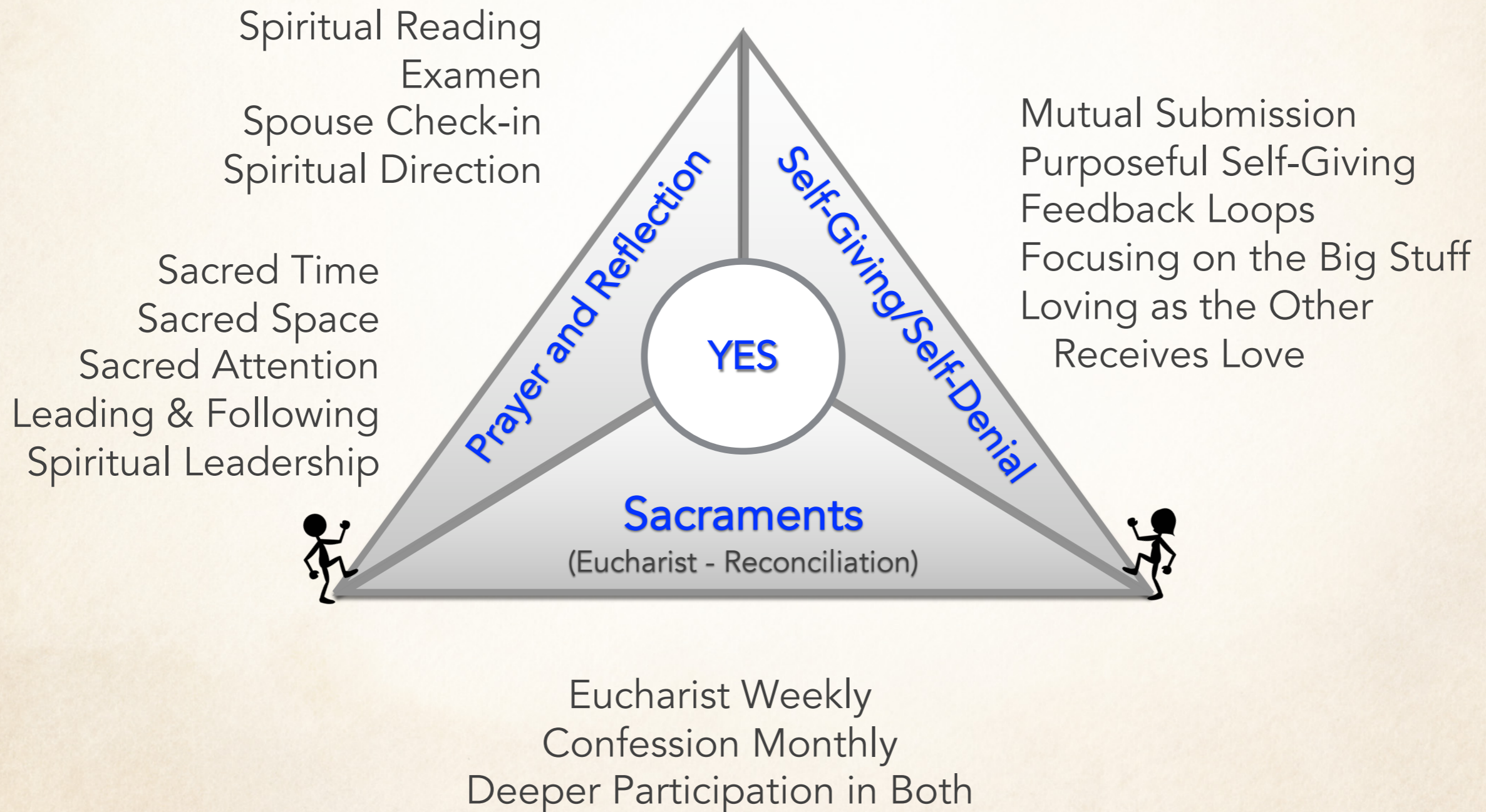
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# THE ASCENT TO ONENESS TO DIVINE INTIMACY (D&S)

All in or Not In At All



# RESOURCES FOR COUPLES

