

(1) Read Revelation 3:20 and talk about the way in which this famous verse is primarily about the renewal and cultivation of spiritual intimacy between Jesus and his people. If it would be helpful, read the entire letter to the church at Laodicea in Revelation 3 and notice that Jesus is speaking to believers, not non-believers.

(2) Why is unrepentant sin the greatest obstacle to intimacy with the Lord? Or is it? Is there another obstacle that stands in the way? Are there any presently in your life that you can think of?

(3) In the sermon I mentioned ten characteristics or features of true spiritual intimacy. Go back through each of them and make an honest assessment of the degree to which, if at all, they characterize your relationship with God today. If some of them don't, what might be the reason(s) why? What can be done to cultivate deeper intimacy in your relationship with the Lord?

(4) Talk about the several "dangers" in the pursuit of intimacy that were mentioned in the sermon. Do you agree with them? How might you avoid them? In what ways, if at all, have they been present in your own experience in the past?

(5) What is your impression of the experience of Sarah Edwards, wife of Puritan pastor and theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-58)? Was she a fanatic? Was she spiritually imbalanced? What was it about her experience that might have led you to say: "I'd like to know and love God that way"? Does it seem possible? If not, why not? What steps might be taken to cultivate a life similar to the one Sarah had?