

**OPENING THE DOOR**  
**“Drawing Near To God”**  
**James 4:8 and Revelation 3:20**

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you ...”* James 4:8  
(NASB)

Jesus: *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”* Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

You and I have a heavenly Father, who through His Son Jesus Christ, desires a relationship characterized by **intimacy**.

Intimacy is to be fully **known** and fully **accepted** without the fear of **rejection**.

The Dilemma: The only person who can totally accept us, we keep shut outside the door because we are **afraid** of what He might do.

<sup>26</sup>*“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’”*

<sup>27</sup>*“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

<sup>28</sup>*“God blessed them ...”* Genesis 1:26-28 (NIV)

What had they done so far to get a blessing? Nothing! God is saying to them, I am going to rule over the universe, but I want you to rule over the whole earth. You are in charge.

God has **created** us **for** relationship and **in** relationship with Himself.

<sup>1</sup>*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes ...’* Revelation 21:1-4

The Problem: Our culture predispositions us to **avoid** intimacy with God.

Luke 19: Zacchaeus

Matthew 9: Matthew