

Truths of Assurance and Freedom

Lesson # 1 -- Truths Regarding God's Love and Holiness.

Introduction

- A. Perhaps no one has ever cared enough about you to explain to you some of the basic truths of Christianity that would transform your life. I care and I will.
 - B. The foundation of all in Christianity and life is a Person -- the True and Living God. There is absolutely nothing more important, powerful, fulfilling, and transforming than knowing God. No one could disagree. Phil 3:10
 - C. One of the greatest mysteries is why we, as believers, are so passive and so neglectful about knowing God and living in fellowship and harmony with Him.
 - D. Where do we begin? With God as a Person and His character of love and holiness.
- I. God is a Person (Not an Idea, Power, or Thing). READ ISAIAH 40:21-31 & ACTS 17:29
- A. A rough definition of God as Person. (No words are adequate.)

God is a living, spiritual (spirit), non-material, eternal, infinite, substantive Being, with self-consciousness and self-determination, capable of feeling, choosing, and having a reciprocal relationship with other personal and social beings. (See M. Erickson, Christian Theology, Vol I, P. 269)
 - B. Observation: For God to be Person means that He relates to us as a Person. He knows all about us, has feelings of love, joy, regret, and anger about us, has made great and far-reaching plans for us, is constantly with us, always seeking an opportunity to bless us, protect us, and lead us into a deeper relationship with Himself, and into a more fulfilling experience of His grace and kingdom.
- II. God is a Person -- Infinitely Great In His Love Toward Us. READ JOHN 13:1-17, 34, 35
- A. How does God, as a Person, relate to us as persons? (Vs 4-17, 34)
 1. In His love the Lord Jesus recognized and treated the Disciples as persons.

They had the right to have a need (hunger, confusion, dusty feet), and to have their need met (food, information, washing of their feet). As believers we have rights by creation and grace. God respects us and our rights.
 2. In His love the Lord Jesus gave the Disciples their rightful place in His plan and life.

They had the need of redemption. By washing their feet the Lord Jesus showed forth its meaning in a twofold way: once for all and daily (Vs 8-10). As believers He wants us to have assurance and enter fully into His grace.
 3. In His love the Lord Jesus did what was right by the Disciples, sacrificially for their good. As believers He will do the same for us. Calvary is the message and measure of His loving provision.

4. In His love the Lord Jesus distinguished between the person of the Disciples and their actions (Vs 8-10). As believers God will always love us %100 as a person while He may not approve of some of the things we do. We cannot earn love.

B. By washing the feet of the Disciples, the Lord Jesus illustrated His personal concern and respect for them as persons, His knowledge and acceptance of their needs, His redemptive provision for them, and His desire for involvement in their life. His desire and relationship with you is the same today as then.

III. God is a Person -- Seeking Our Assurance of His Love and Provision.

A. God loves and likes us -- as evidenced in His description of us.

1. Believers are described as God's "Inheritance." Deut 4:20; Eph 1:18
2. Believers are described as God's "Treasured possession." Deut 7:6; 14:2
3. Believers are described as "The apple of His eye." Deut 32:10
4. Believers are described as Jehovah's "Wife." Isaiah 54:5
5. Believers are described as His "Friends." John 15:15.

B. God loves and likes us -- as evidenced in how He describes Himself.

1. God affirms He will be as a "Husband" to us. Isaiah 54:5
2. God affirms He will be as a "Mother" to us. Isaiah 66:13
3. God affirms He will be as a "Father" to us. Matt 6:9
4. God affirms He will be as a "Shepherd" to us. John 10:11

C. God loves and likes us -- as evidenced in His desires for us.

1. God wants us to have "His joy." John 15:11
2. God wants us to be "With him." John 17:24
3. God wants us to have "Love, joy, peace" Gal 5:22,23.
4. God wants us to "Know we have eternal life." I John 5:13

Conclusion

A. Since God is a Person Who loves us and likes us and has made every provision for us in His redemptive grace -- why are so many believers living with confusion about these truths and largely destitute of their benefits?

B. What should we do so we may know and enjoy His love and grace?

Victor Matthews