

God's Perfect Knowledge of Me

Psalm 139

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:10-16

- I. Introduction: The problem of others
 - a. From the moment we first come into being we are surrounded by others
 - i. FAR SIDE – penguins – One singing “I gotta be me. I just gotta be me....”



- ii. Three responses
 1. Fusion
 - a. GOAL: Deny differences
 - b. Try to merge others into self
 - i. Others are just an extension of me and my needs and goals
 - ii. To know me is to love me, and you should
 - iii. Narcissism
 - c. Try to merge self into others
 - i. I am here for you
 - ii. Your needs are more important than my needs
 - iii. If we disagree, I must be wrong
 - iv. Co-dependency
 2. Isolation
 - a. GOAL: Avoid differences

- b. Hide differences
 - i. Near to others, but not close to them
 - ii. Afraid to share true self
 - iii. Only share a version of self that may be acceptable to others
 - c. Run away
 - i. Avoid interaction with others altogether
 - d. Chase others away
 - i. Unexplained demands
 - ii. Others must take it or leave it
 - iii. Problems
 - 1. Fusion produces Confusion
 - 2. Isolation produces Loneliness
 - 3. We can function without intimacy,
 - a. So many survive without it
 - b. But we cannot thrive without intimacy
 - c. We cannot be all God intends for us to be as a human being made in the image of God
 - d. We are made for intimate relationships with others
 - 4. There is an Other Who we cannot Deny or Avoid: God
 - iv. God brings the problem of others to a crisis
 - 1. Fusion won't work
 - a. We are not God
 - b. We are not just an appendage of God
 - c. Some try
 - 2. Isolation won't work
 - a. We can't run away from God
 - b. We can't drive Him away from us
 - c. Some try
 - 3. We when begin to understand Who God is, we begin to understand that these self-defeating means of coping with the existence and differentness of others won't work
 - 4. The only way left to us is the right way
 - v. The Solution: Intimacy
 - 1. GOAL: To know and be know for who we are
 - 2. There is an enormous relief and peace in being known and accepted for who we are
 - a. Our true self
 - b. With all our shortcomings
 - c. Odd opinions
 - d. Checkered past
 - e. Weaknesses
 - f. Doubts and Fears
 - g. Joys and desires
 - 3. Hindrances
 - a. Lack of intimacy in our human relationships

- 2. When we sin, we do not do it behind His back, we do it to His face
 - v. Do you know and believe this?
 - c. I am His workmanship (v. 13-16)
 - i. He made us – inside and out
 - ii. He made us well
 - iii. He made our situation
 - iv. Do you know and believe this
- IV. Therefore:
 - a. I love His thoughts (v. 17-18)
 - i. Since He knows our thoughts, shouldn't we desire to know His thoughts?
 - ii. Since He thinks of us, wouldn't we like to know WHAT He thinks of us?
 - iii. We cannot even number them, much less know them all
 - iv. Shouldn't we regard as precious the few of God's thoughts that we can know?
 - v. Awake – from sleep, from lethargy, from death
 - b. I hate His enemies (v. 19-22)
 - i. We don't want them around
 - 1. Taken by God
 - 2. Sent away
 - 3. Should we leave?
 - ii. Their crimes
 - 1. Speaking against God
 - 2. Taking His name in vain
 - 3. Hating God
 - 4. Rebelling against God
 - iii. Perfect hatred –
 - 1. "To hate with perfect hatred is to neither hate men because of their vices, nor to love vices because of the men who have them." – Augustine
 - 2. Not incompatible with "Love your enemies"
 - c. I desire His scrutiny (v. 23-24)
 - i. Requesting His inspection. Compare v. 23 with vs.1
 - ii. Welcoming His "intrusion"/understanding
 - iii. Seeking His cleansing
 - iv. Seeking His guidance
- V. Invitation
 - a. How do you respond to the differences of others?
 - i. Fusion?
 - ii. Isolation?
 - iii. Intimacy?
 - iv. There are several paths to becoming rightly related to the others around us

1. Ideally, we grow up in a nurturing intimate environment in which we develop intimate relationships with others that bring us to an intimate relationship with God
 2. In our time, fewer and fewer have that benefit. For most, then, intimacy is discovered in a healthy, loving relationship with another human being. When we do experience true intimacy, we recognize it as something that we have always been longing for, perhaps without knowing it. Being known and accepted by another can open the door to believing the unbelievable: that we can be known and accepted by God.
 3. There is a third, hard way. The way of vainly trying every door of escape from the differentness of others around us, until we finally discover that God cannot be denied or avoided. And having come to peace with Him, then to be reconciled to all the strangers around us.
- b. Where are you on the path to intimacy with God?
 - i. Denying Him?
 - ii. Avoiding Him?
 - iii. Seeking to know Him and be known by Him?
 - c. The Bad News
 - i. We are already known by Him
 - ii. Uh oh!!
 - d. The Good News
 - i. God is already willing to accept us
 - ii. We simply have to approach God through Jesus Christ