

Essential Truths of the Christian Faith
Chapters 44-49

- i. How were you encouraged by these six chapters? How were you challenged?

- ii. **From chapter 44.** On pages 166, Sproul says “I cannot contemplate God or anything else outside of myself until I am first aware of myself. Yet I cannot grasp the meaning of myself until I understand myself in relationship to God.”
 - a) How have you the understanding of yourself lead to a better understanding of God and vice-versa?

- iii. Read the last paragraph on page 167: “To be created by God is to be related to God. This inescapable relationship insures that we are not useless noise or feeling. In creation we receive a crown of glory. A crown of glory is a tiara of dignity. With God we have dignity; without God we are nothing.”
 - a) How does this quote help you understand your identity in Christ? How does it help you (and challenge you) to love others, created in the image of God?

- iv. **From chapter 45.** On page 170, Sproul says to bear God’s image means to “reflect the character of God’s righteous rule over the universe. He never ravages or exploits what He rules, but rather reigns in justice in kindness.”
 - a) How have you failed in reflecting God’s righteous rule?

- v. On page 170, Sproul goes on to say that “The Fall...did not destroy our humanity...we are still human...We still bear the mark of our Creator upon ourselves.”
 - a) How have you reflected the mark of your Creator in your family, your work, your neighborhood?

vi. **In chapter 46**, how does Sproul differentiate the Greek view of the body versus the biblical view of the body?

a) How does this truth encourage you?

vii. In chapter 47, Sproul explains the concept of flesh and spirit. He makes the point that as Christians, we are filled with the Spirit, yet we still battle with our sinfulness - our fallen nature is conquered but not destroyed.

a) How have you experienced this “tug-a-war” in your lives?

b) Read Romans 7:21-25. How does the apostle Paul’s words encourage you as you live in this struggle?

viii. In chapters 48 and 49, Sproul explains Satan and Demons. How does his explanation help you better understand their role and the boundaries in which they must stay?