

1 **WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

When People Are BIG and God is Small

Chapters 8 & 9

Forest Hill Presbyterian, 10/21/2018

2 **Overcoming the Fear of Man**

- Step 1 Recognize that the fear of man is a major theme both in the Bible and in your own life.
- Step 2 Identify where your fear of man has been intensified by people in your past.
- Step 3 Identify where your fear of man has been intensified by the assumptions of the world.
- Step 4: Understand and grow in the fear of the Lord. The person who fears God will fear nothing else.
- Step 5: Examine where your desires have been too big. When we fear people, people are big, our desires are even bigger, and God is small.

"Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack no good thing." – Psalm 34:9

3 **Identity → Real Needs**

- What is our basic, God-given shape or identity?
- What are our real, God-designed needs?

Three Basic Options:

The Popular View of the World

The Theologically Flawed Views of Many Christian Psychologists

The Biblical View

4 **Are We Psychologically Needy?**

IF ONLY . . .

- If only my husband would encourage me more.
- If only my wife would respect me more.
- If only my children would obey me more.
- If only he/she would show more interest in me.
- If only my boss would trust me and empower me.
- If only my parents would give me more independence.
- If only my peers at school accepted me.

5 **What Are Real Needs?**

A Popular Model

6 **Are Psychological Needs Real?**

- "When left only partially defined, psychological needs seem quite normal, but when their true goal is revealed (for us to feel good about ourselves), these "needs" seem somewhat self-centered, and biblical support for them may be hard to find."
- Thoughtful Christian Response: These are inherent in our nature as people made in God's

image, based on one of two common (*but erroneous*) models –

- The person as three substances: body, soul, spirit. Each substance has its own needs.
- The image of God as a longing for what we need: “We all long for what God designed us to enjoy.”

7 **We are NOT tri-partite**

- “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.” – 2 Cor. 4:16
- “Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” – Matthew 10:28
- “how to be holy in body and spirit” – 1 Cor. 7:34
- “For as the body apart from the spirit is dead.” - James 2:28
- If we are tri-partite, then we have a whole category of life and needs which the Bible doesn’t really directly address.

8 **The Image of God is NOT About our Needs**

- God doesn’t love out of need. He has no needs. He loves as an expression of who he is as love and as an overflow of His glory, pouring forth in goodness.
- Reflecting God’s image is not about having our psychological needs met in Him. We are not called to have our needs for significance and acceptance met in Christ. Rather, we are called to glorify Him by showing forth His character in our lives, including His love.

9 **A Perversion of the Gospel**

- The Gospel is not deigned to make us feel good about ourselves. We need to be freed from ourselves and our need to be significant.
- Jesus did not die to increase our self-esteem. Jesus died to bring glory to the Father by redeeming people back from sin to God.
- Many of our felt psychological needs must die; Jesus came to set us free from the, because they are sinfully self-centered and not God-glorifying.
- Love: Not so much that we need to be loved so we can feel good, but we need to love as a reflection of God’s character, a way we imitate Christ & bring glory to God.

10 **Psychological Needs or Frustrated Desires?**

- If I need love, in the form of respect, then my wife must give it to me, and I have a just right to be angry (with righteous indignation) when she doesn’t give it to me sufficiently.
- In reality, I desire respect and I’m hurt when I don’t think I get enough of it. At root, this is a selfish desire and it can NEVER be satisfied!
- If I need significance by having other people value and respect my work, my opinion, etc., I will be incomplete and justly empty when I don’t receive sufficient affirmation.
- In reality, I desire respect and affirmation, and I feel hurt when I don’t think I’m getting enough of it, but I can never satisfy this desire, not even with God – because God is not interested in making me feel like the most important person in the universe.

11 **What’s the Problem?**

“Since we were forged by The Lover, we *should* delight in loving and being loved. It would be

inhuman *not* to delight in love. It would be inhuman if we didn't hurt deeply when rejected or sinned against by others. The problem is not that we desire love, the problem is *how much* we desire it or *for what purpose* we desire it. Do we desire it so much that it overshadows our desire to be imitators of God? Do we desire it for our own pleasure or for God's glory?"

12 **So, What's the Solution?**

How we see ourselves and what we do . . .

- How We See Ourselves: Not an a cup needing to be filled, but as a mirror needing to reflect.
- God's GLORY is the manifestation of the His HOLINESS expressed in LOVE and JUSTICE.
- We glorify God when we reflect His HOLINESS in our lives in LOVE and JUSTICE.

13 **Who We Are & What We Do**

- "Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children." – Eph. 5:1*
- "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us." - 2 Cor. 5:20*
- "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." – 2 Cor. 3:18*
- "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." - 1 Peter 2:9*

14 **How Do We Do This?**

- In meeting with God's people in worship and fellowship, for God's glory.
- In praying for each other and for the world, for God's glory.
- In listening to a spouse rather than being defensive, for God's glory.
- In learning and studying God's truth in its various forms, for God's glory.
- In going to work and working with excellence, to God's glory.
- In enjoying marital sexuality, to God's glory.
- In parenting, to God's glory.

15 **What Do We Really Need?**

- We need to be focused first on the glory of God and His kingdom, like Jesus taught us to pray.
- We do need each other, but not too fulfill our psychological needs, but rather to fulfill God's mission and calling.
- We are people with limited abilities and God calls us to work together with other Christians to fulfill His mission in the world.
- In John 17, Jesus prayed that God would be glorified and that we would grow in obedience, and our unity in Christ as His people is vital and central to both of these.
- So, we need to stop needing each other and start serving each other and serving with each other for the glory of God.