

# When People Are Big

## AND GOD IS SMALL

(Taken from When People Are Big, Ed Welch, P & R Publishing, 1997)

Prov. 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the BEGINNING of wisdom . . .

THE PROBLEM:

THE SOLUTION:

A GROWING knowledge of God displaces the fear of MAN.

### What Are Your Real Needs?

Liberation from the fear of man has three components:

- We must have a BIBLICALLY informed knowledge of God
- We must have a biblically informed knowledge of OTHERS
- We must have a biblically informed knowledge of OURSELVES

The popular view of people: “Fill me with ???, then I will be happy.”

*If only my husband would encourage me more*

*If only my wife would respect me.*

*If only my children would obey me.*

*If only he/she would show some interest in me.*

- Our basic shape is that of a CUP/RECEPTACLE
- We have a long list of NEEDS, but these tend to cluster around the basic need for LOVE and SIGNIFICANCE.
- When these are not met, we feel EMPTY.

**What would you say that you really need?**

Among all the different uses of the word “need”, there are three clusters of meaning:

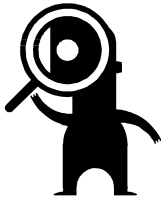
BIOLOGICAL - the most common use of the word in the NT

SPIRITUAL - we are “dead in our trespasses and sins”

PSYCHOLOGICAL - typically refer to what we want in relationships

- Normally it is taught that psychological needs must be filled in order for us to FEEL good about ourselves.
- “At first glance the Scripture can support the idea that we need TO SHOW LOVE to others, but it is more difficult to find Scripture that says we have a God-given need TO RECEIVE LOVE so we can feel better about ourselves.” (pg. 140)

**Where does this type of thinking come from, and if true, what does it say about God and us?**



# When People Are Big

## AND GOD IS SMALL

(Taken from When People Are Big, Ed Welch, P & R Publishing, 1997)

Prov. 1:7 – The fear of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom . . .

THE PROBLEM:

THE SOLUTION:

A \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of God displaces the fear of \_\_\_\_\_.

### What Are Your Real Needs?

Liberation from the fear of man has three components:

- We must have a \_\_\_\_\_ informed knowledge of God
- We must have a biblically informed knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_
- We must have a biblically informed knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_

The popular view of people: “Fill me with \_\_\_\_\_, then I will be happy.”

*If only my husband would encourage me more*

*If only my wife would respect me.*

*If only my children would obey me.*

*If only he/she would show some interest in me.*

- Our basic shape is that of a \_\_\_\_\_
- We have a long list of \_\_\_\_\_, but these tend to cluster around the basic need for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- When these are not met, we feel \_\_\_\_\_.

**What would you say that you really need?**

Among all the different uses of the word “need”, there are three clusters of meaning:

\_\_\_\_\_ - the most common use of the word in the NT

\_\_\_\_\_ - we are “dead in our trespasses and sins”

\_\_\_\_\_ - typically refer to what we want in relationships

- Normally it is taught that psychological needs must be filled in order for us to \_\_\_\_\_ good about ourselves.
- “At first glance the Scripture can support the idea that we need \_\_\_\_\_ to others, but it is more difficult to find Scripture that says we have a God-given need \_\_\_\_\_ so we can feel better about ourselves.” (pg. 140)

**Where does this type of thinking come from, and if true, what does it say about God and us?**