



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

2 Cor. 7:1 – . . . perfecting HOLINESS in the fear of God.

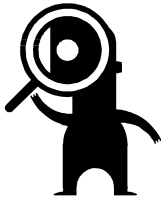
DISCUSSION

- What is the definition of “need” and “want”?
- Using the definitions above, what does Scripture say that we really “need”, and what things fall in the “want” category?
- Does a biblical command to act, think, or feel a certain way toward another person imply that there is a parallel “need” in that same person that must be met? If so, does it imply the same need in me?
- What kind of dynamic is created (what are the consequences) if we confuse biblical “needs” with personal “wants”?
- How does the “need” for significance, love, respect, meaning square with such passages as Gal. 5:16-26?
- When did the confusion over “needs” and “wants” begin?

APPLICATION

- God loves us because of His own sovereign PLEASURE and for the sake of His GLORY; He is not OBLIGATED to love us either by divine DECREE or NEED.
- We are called to love not because other people NEED love, but because love is the way in which we IMITATE Christ. (See 1 Jn. 4:7-21)
- To be created in the IMAGE OF GOD means that we are like God in every way a CREATURE can be like Him, to the praise of His glorious GRACE. (See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)
- In the end, the Scripture requires all believers to find joy (satisfaction) in knowing and loving GOD! (See Eph. 3:14-19)
- To close the loop, a believer is to be a slave to GOD and His will, not the threats of HUMILIATION, RIDICULE, EXPOSURE, or OPPRESSION from others.

So . . . what do believers need from other people?



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A N D G O D I S S M A L L

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APPLICATION

- God loves us because of His own sovereign _____ and for the sake of His _____; He is not _____ to love us either by divine _____ or _____.
- We are called to love not because other people _____ love, but because love is the way in which we _____ Christ. (See 1 Jn. 4:7-21)
- To be created in the _____ means that we are like God in every way a _____ can be like Him, to the praise of His glorious _____. (See Eph. 1:6, 12, 14)
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