



When People Are Big

AND GOD IS SMALL

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

Ecc. 12:13 – . . . Fear God and keep His COMMANDMENTS ...

OBSERVATION: People are our cherished IDOLS ... we WORSHIP them, hoping they will take care of us, hoping they will GIVE us what we feel we need.

- People are GAS PUMPS (they fill us).
- People are sought-after TICKETS to acceptance and fame.
- People are PRIESTS who have the power to make us feel clean and okay.
- People are TERRORISTS (we never know when they will strike).
- People are DICTATORS (every word is law).

BIBLICAL PICTURE: People fall into one of three categories:

- ENEMIES
- NEIGHBORS
- BROTHER/SISTER

What is an enemy? What are natural responses to an enemy?

Psalm 55:12-14

A proper response to our enemies must be grounded in two fundamental truths:

1. God hears the voice of the OPPRESSED; and
2. God blesses the obedience of VICTIMS.

(See Ps. 146:3-4 & Prov. 24:19-20)

Enemies are the special OBJECTS of God's love revealed through the MINISTRY of a believer. (See Matt. 5:43-44 & Rom. 12:19-21)

"When we know that God's POWER is greater than that of our enemies, when we know that he is JUST, and when we know that he LOVED us while we were his enemies, then we are free to be simple SERVANTS who imitate and obey the Father ... to love in this way, we need both POWER and DISCERNMENT." (pg. 189)

Who is my neighbor?

Matthew 22:36-40

Luke 10:25-37 – Jesus expanded the normal boundaries of neighbors to the point where the story is about two ENEMIES - a Jew and a Samaritan.

EVERYONE, then, is my neighbor!

What about other believers – what should be my response to them?



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