

“WORLDVIEW IN FOCUS”
Session 6: “The implications of believing that God is personal.”
Rev. Rick Dietzman
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INTRODUCTION

I. WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

1. GOD _____

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Gen. 1:1 (NIV)

“He did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited.” Isa. 45:18b (NIV)

“God is the one who made all things, and all things are for His glory. He wanted to have many children share His glory...” Heb. 2:10a (NCV)

2. GOD _____ OF US FIRST BUT _____ LAST.

“Long before He laid down earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and had settled on us as the focus of His love...” Eph. 1:4 (Mes)

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT

“God brought us into being through the word of truth, so that we should have first place among all His creatures.” James 1:18 (TEV) (His prized possession)

3. GOD _____ EACH OF US.

“You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous — and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born.” Ps. 139:13-16 (NLT)

Q: what does it mean to be the focus of God’s love?

II. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?

1. MY LIFE _____

"God created people in His own image; God patterned them after Himself; male and female He created them." Gen. 1:27 (NLT)

(God to Jeremiah) "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for My holy purpose." Jer. 1:5 (GW)

"You God created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created!" Rev. 4:11b (NLT)

2. MY IDENTITY _____

"God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life... He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ... and He did this for you." 1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT)

"Haven't you yet learned that your body is the home of the Holy Spirit God gave you, and that He lives within you? Your own body does not belong to you." 1 Cor. 6:19 (LB)

"Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17 (TEV)

3. MY DAYS _____

"All the days planned for me were written in Your book before I was one day old." Psalm 139:16 (NCV)

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

4. MY PROBLEMS _____

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Rom. 8:28 (NLT)

5. MY FUTURE _____

“Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Ps. 23:6 (NIV)

“This is God’s purpose: when the time is ripe He will gather us all together from wherever we are – in heaven or on earth – to be with Him in Christ forever.” Eph. 1:10 (LB)

“All creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who His children really are.” Romans 8:19 (NLT)

Q: How do these assurances affect your life as you wake up each day?

III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE IDEA OF A PERSONAL GOD IS REJECTED? (Truth Decay)

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“(Let us) no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like truth.” Eph. 4:14 (NLT)

“Since they refuse to trust truth, they’re banished to their chosen world of lies and illusions.” 2 Thes. 2:12 (Mes)

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“They don’t care anymore about right and wrong, and they have given themselves over to immoral ways. Their lives are filled with all kinds of impurity and greed.” Ephesians. 4:19 (NLT)

“Where there is ignorance of God, crime runs wild.” Pr. 29:18 (LB)

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“Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. They worshipped the things God made but not the Creator Himself.” Romans. 1:25 (NLT)

