

# WHAT WE NEED TO REMEMBER

## *“You Thought That I Was Just Like You”*

Scripture Reading: PSALM 50:21-23

- ) **SLIDES 1-6.** Bible Jeopardy!
- ) **SLIDE 7-8.** Read today’s Scripture text.
- ) **SLIDE 9.** I have only two more Sundays to preach the Word of God here at BGCC. I want to make it count. So I’ve titled today’s message *“You Thought I Was Just Like You”* (v21). Today I want to share with you who God is and who He is not.
- ) With me today I have a box. This is a physical, tangible box that I can touch. This is my box. I have marbles in my box. I keep my marbles in my box because I want them to stay exactly the way I want them to stay. I need to know exactly where they will be when and if I want or need them. And I want to use them only in the way I want to use them. I need to be in control of these marbles.
- ) There’s something else in my box. It’s God!
- ) Why do we do this? Why do we sometimes put God in a box? Answer. For the same reasons I put marbles in this box. I want God to be what I want God to be, so if and when I ever need Him, I’ll know just where to find Him. I am in control.
- ) And, my friends, once we do this with God, then He is no longer the God of the Bible. He is the god we want Him to be. Essentially I am humanizing God when I put Him in this box.
- ) **SLIDE 10.** When we bring down God to a human level, that is called anthropomorphism. Webster.
- ) It’s OK to say that God has “eyes” to see us and a “*mighty arm*” that led the Israelites out of Egypt. But we dare not portray God in limited human terms and traits. Let’s look into this.

- ) **SLIDE 11.** PSALM 50:21. God is not like us. He is God.
- ) **SLIDE 12.** ISAIAH 40:12-14.
- ) **SLIDE 13.** God is the creator God. No one ever has or ever will **DIRECT** Him, **INFORM** Him, **COUNSEL** Him, or **TEACH** Him. God has all knowledge and all understanding. Only a fool would attempt to direct, inform, counsel, or teach God.
- ) In the book of JOB, Job has just had some terrible things happen to him. His friends are accusing him of sin. Job wants answers and demands an audience with God.
- ) **SLIDE 14.** God does not owe Job an explanation for anything. Listen to God's response in JOB 38:2-5. In other words, who are you Job? I'm God and you're not. You question me?
- ) But there are fools in this world today and one of them is a man named Jesse Duplantis. And Mr. Duplantis said this: *"Friends have frank and open conversations with each other. I've done that with the Lord. I've had the Lord say, 'Jesse.' I've had God come tell me, 'This is what I'm going to do.' I've had the Lord and He'll say, 'What do you think about this?' God has asked me for my opinion."*
- ) I assure you my friends that is never going to happen. We cannot counsel God nor does He ever ask for it.
- ) **SLIDE 15.** ISAIAH 55:8,9.
- ) **SLIDE 16.** Do not expect God to **THINK** like you think or **ACT** like you act in every situation.
- ) You may encounter a situation and you pray that God handles it in a certain way. We must remember that He knows and sees so much more than we do. His wisdom and knowledge far surpass what we could ever imagine.
- ) As Christians we should be comforted knowing that God's ways and thoughts are not our ways and our thoughts—and that His plan will always be best for us.

- ) But there are those who will insist that God must follow their faith formula as if they are the master and God is the servant.
- ) **SLIDE 17.** ISAIAH 46:8-10. God makes it very clear that He is God and not human and there are no other gods.
- ) So God cannot be counseled or taught and His ways and thoughts are far higher than our ways and thoughts, and there are no other gods.
- ) But there are those outside the church, and sadly, some inside the church who have made God into what He is not. They have put Him in a box. They have made Him what they want Him to be. They have humanized Him. They think that God is just like us.
- ) We have brought Him down from His throne to our human level. We act as if God is a human being like the neighbor next door. We believe He thinks, acts, and reacts as men do.
- ) What happens when we humanize God?
- ) **SLIDE 18.** It minimizes the **AUTHORITY** of the Bible. As true Christians if we know and understand that God is up here, then the Word that He wrote is up here too. But if we bring God down here, what have we done to this book? We have stripped it of all authority and truth. Because if we have made God out to be what we want Him to be, we have done the same with His Word.
- ) **SLIDE 19.** It strips God of His **UNAPPEALING** attributes. Much of today's preaching is failing miserably by only preaching about a God of love. Is God love? Yes. But let's balance the scales here. He is also a God of wrath/judgment.
- ) But preachers do not preach on that anymore because people will go away. Yes, there is a heaven. But there is also a hell and it's hot and people die and go there every day.

- ) In his book titled “*Love Wins*” author and pastor Rob Bell says this: “*At the heart of this perspective is the belief that, given enough time, everybody will turn to God and find themselves in the joy and peace of God’s presence. The love of God will melt every hard heart, and even the most ‘depraved sinners’ will eventually give up their resistance and turn to God.*” (p. 107)
- ) People, that’s universalism. What’s universalism? Everyone gets saved. The Bible does not teach universalism. But according to Rob Bell everyone gets saved. How can he say that? Because according to Rob Bell love wins. A loving God would certainly not cast an unrepentant sinner into the depths of hell would He? No.
- ) What truth here? An unrepentant sinner will cast him or herself into the depths of hell. A loving God has provided a solution by way of a Savior. And His name is Jesus Christ.
- ) **SLIDE 20.** It calls God a **LIAR**. Have you ever encountered a person who says one thing and then does another? After a while you cannot believe a word they say. God is not like that.
- ) **SLIDE 21.** 1 COR 6:9-10. That is what the Word of God says.
- ) “*O, He doesn’t really mean that. He is just like that person I know who says one thing and then does something else.*”
- ) Oh yes God does mean it and God is nothing like that person you know. And if you believe God doesn’t mean it, you have just called God a liar for what He has written in His Word.
- ) The Word of God says that homosexuality is a sin. So how long will people continue a pride lifestyle of gay and lesbian believing there will be no judgment for their actions? Answer. As long as they believe God is a liar because He is just like that person who really doesn’t mean what they say.
- ) **SLIDE 22.** It **DEIFIES** man. Someone is on the throne of authority in our lives. And when we humanize God we elevate mankind.

- ) Gloria Steinham. American journalist, social-political activist, and radical feminist said, “*By the year 2,000 we will have taught our children to believe in themselves, not God.*”
- ) Has this infiltrated the church? Of course it has. Much of what is preached today is a man-centered theology and not a God-centered theology. The ultimate evil is no longer sin but a lack of success or happiness or health or wealth. Many preachers teach that we are “*little gods*” on our way to sovereignty! To them God is not sovereign—man is.
- ) Robert Schuller, the former pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, taught that the worst thing you could ever do is tell a man he is a sinner. The new message is all about self-esteem and not the need for repentance and humility.
- ) Did you hear the key word there? SELF. And where there is self, there is pride. And pride got Lucifer kicked out of heaven.
- ) **SLIDE 23.** It **MINIMIZES** sin. Because when the vision of God has faded, sin no longer appears exceedingly sinful. With a humanizing view of God sin is no longer black and white. It now becomes some shade of gray.
- ) When a person minimizes the authority of the Bible, strips God of His unappealing attributes, calls God a liar, and deifies man, the only logical result will be that we minimize sin or dismiss it altogether. God is no longer God. We have changed Him into what we want Him to be. Someone just like us. And how ironic. In the garden (GEN 3) man wanted to be just like Him.
- ) I guess if we can’t be like Him, let’s make Him just like us.
- ) **SLIDE 24.** It is an evil to be full of faults. It is a greater evil to be full of faults and be unwilling to recognize them. It is the greatest evil to be full of faults, recognize them, and be unwilling to correct them. GALATIANS 6:7-8.

) I love God being God, don't you? I don't want Him to be like me. I don't want Him to be like you. I want God to be God. I love God for Who He is.

) I want to understand Him the way He has revealed Himself to us. That is the God I love.

) His kingdom. His righteousness. His glory. His praise. That can only happen when we open the box and let Him out.

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