

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

“Got God?” God Got You?

John 3:16 - “For **God** so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

The great milk campaign “Got Milk?” with the messy milk mustache on famous faces was a great ad success. Actually most people recall it, but I have no idea how successful it was in getting folks to actually consume milk!

John 3:16 is a great verse. It’s the entire Gospel message in one sentence. I suspect that a lot of people who never attend church know the verse, or possibly have at least read it when they read the sign held by Rainbow Man at Super Bowls of old.

But why do some still not “get God?”

Think of the people that you know. They are so different from each other: their tastes, personalities, priorities, and perceived needs are across the spectrum of humanity and the human experience. As different as these people are, so are their reasons for not “getting God...” at least the God of the Holy Scriptures.

But that may be the rub. It is the “God of Scriptures” that many resist. They resist Him because He (and His disciples) claim exclusivity. This God has both a capital “G” and a personal name and personality... and, honestly, personalities scare us a bit. Just as much as we are drawn to be social, and attracted to various people, we are also suspicious of people, and certainly dislike many people because of their personality. I suspect that the same holds true with God. Possibly those who resist God prefer a tamer God – one who would not give commands, but rather *suggestions*. One who would not require judgment for sin, but continuously coddle us and say “It’s no big deal.” But this God of Scriptures is the same One that Moses could not look upon, the same God Who delivered the tablets of rigid stone Commandments in an atmosphere of thunderous terror. And, yes, He is the same One Who crucified His Son.

If all we know about this God is John 3:16, we are still confronted with a complex Character. But the heart of the verse is salvation, redemption, deliverance, and eternal fellowship. Our first impression of this Complex Triune – Three Lettered G.O.D. should be that He wants us, enough to do something dramatic, shocking even! The messy mustaches are a bit off-putting in the milk ads, but we smile in the end, and get the point. God is sometimes messy with His methods, but in the end it is simply that He wants for us to get Him – by being gotten.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your clear and simple messages. The Cross is a bold and up-front sign that You love us. I pray that we would first accept this message through faith and that we not let other things obscure the simplicity of Your sign of love to us, Your cross. In Your Name, Amen.

---Pastor Foote