



Part 1 of 3: *Here's Mud In Your Eye*

APPETIZER FOR THE SERIES: Seeing God More Clearly

A. WHAT WE "SEE" WHEN WE THINK OF GOD WILL SHAPE OUR SOULS.

God is love. (1 John 4:8, 16)

Love... "is not self-seeking." (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Giving is living. Love is life. (John 3:16; 1 John 3:16)

"The greatest improvements occurred when participants meditated specifically on a God of love. Such meditation was associated with growth in the prefrontal cortex... and subsequent increased capacity for empathy, sympathy, compassion and altruism."

~ Andrew Newberg and Mark Robert Waldman, *How God Changes Your Brain: Breakthrough Findings from a Leading Neuroscientist* (Random House)

B. RELIGION OFTEN PORTRAYS ULTIMATE REALITY AS COLD AND IMPERSONAL, OR ANGRY AND PUNISHING.

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of [religious laws about] eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
~ The Apostle Paul (Romans 14:17)

He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
~ The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 3:6)

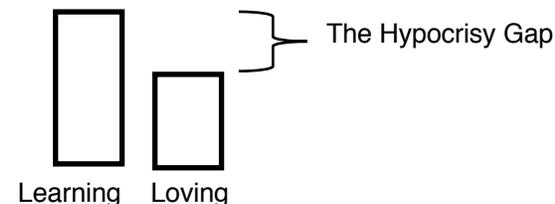
C. JESUS HELPS US SEE GOD MORE CLEARLY.

The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me.
~ Jesus (John 12:45; also see John 14:9; 1:18, etc.)

DINE IN: Vandalizing The Establishment

John 9:1-16

- Context: *Sukkot*
- *Turning Learning into Loving...*



• Sinful from birth?

- *Personal Responsibility...*

Genesis 25:22; Psalm 51:5; 58:3

- *Parental Responsibility...*

Exodus 20:5 (Also Exodus 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9)

VS

Deuteronomy 24:16; 2 Chronicles 25:4; Jeremiah 31:29-30; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 20

• *Karma VS Grace...*

Luke 13:1-5

• Moving from Law to Love...

Three Sabbath Laws Jesus Breaks...

1. Medical treatment may be applied only to life-threatening situations. (e.g., A bleeding injury, but not a toothache.)
2. Against applying healing ointments to the eyes.
3. No kneading (dough or clay).

TAKE OUT: Moving in Step with Jesus

As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me.
~ Jesus (John 9:4)

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
~ The Apostle Paul (Galatians 5:14)

FOR FURTHER READING:

Dr. Timothy R. Jennings, *The God Shaped Brain / The God Shaped Heart*

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing the sermon, talk about anything that stood out to you in this message.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **John 9:1-16**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Jesus claims to be the light of the world here and in the previous chapter. (See **John 1:9** and **8:12** and **Matthew 5:14-16**.) So, who is the light of the world? And how does that work?
 - c. In **Matthew 5:14-16**, the “you” and “your” are plural. How does this inform our application of these verses? Talk about examples.
 - d. Sometimes Christians say things like “if there is confusion, it cannot be of God” or “if it causes division, it cannot be of God”. How do **verses 8-16** inform this kind of thinking?
 - e. If people couldn’t even recognize the man after his healing, how closely do you think they paid attention to him when he was blind? How closely do you pay attention to people who are physically or mentally challenged?
 - f. What are some dangers of centering our spiritual expression on love over law? Talk about examples.
 - g. What are the even greater dangers of centering our spiritual expression on law over love? Talk about examples.

HUDDLE [Making it Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. Use your huddle questions. Talk about what God has been showing you, and pray for one another.