

# **CHRIST CENTERED COMMUNITY (C3) HOMEWORK**

“Edifying the body by embracing the grace of the Spirit to live out the love of the Son in fellowship that glorifies the Father”



## **WARM UP**

1. Write down the strongest thing you associate in your mind with these descriptive words:

Delightful

Irritating

Delicious

Gross

Beautiful

Boring

2. What do you immediately think of when you hear “God?”

## **DIGGING DEEPER**

3. What stood out to you most about Sunday's message?

4. Pastor Randy taught that the way we think about God will affect the way we live. Do you agree? Why or why not?

a) Read Gen 1:1 and list everything this verse implies about God.

He is powerful enough to create the universe

He is intelligent enough to design the universe

He existed before time, space, and matter

He is King over all creation because He made it

The word “God” is *Elohim* which is plural, implying the Trinity and God’s relational nature

(There are many more implications you can draw from this text as well)

- b) If you fully believed all the thoughts you just wrote down, how should or would that affect the way you live?

Psalm 121:1. Last time I checked none of my problems comes anywhere near creating the Universe. If God can do Gen 1:1 and I believe it, I have every resource I need to “be anxious for nothing.” (Phil 4:4)

5. Pastor Randy talked about 3 of the top things we can think about God—God is Father; God is love; God is sovereign. Which of these are you most drawn to?

(The answer to this shows how each person most powerfully relates to God)

How does being inclined to that thought about God change your behavior?

- a) Which do you need to work most at intentionally thinking about (meditating on)? Why?

Which attribute of God do you have the hardest time associating with Him?

- b) How should these ideas be balanced in our thinking?

Ultimately, God is indivisible in his characteristics. We call him father and loving and sovereign to help us think about him, but God cannot be divided into little pieces that are separate from one another. So, we should strive to hold all of God’s attributes in balance with one another since all of them *combined* are who God is and are what we call His glory.

6. Does the reality that God is sovereign comfort you? Why or why not?

If you know God is loving and He relates to you as a Father, His sovereignty (so-reigning in such a way as to do all that pleases Him – Isaiah 46:9-10/Psalm 115:3) should be a precious truth.

This is a great quote by Johnathan Edwards:

“From my childhood up, my mind had been full of objections to the doctrine of God’s sovereignty. . . . But I have often, since that first conviction, had quite another kind of sense of God’s sovereignty than I had then. I have often since had not only a conviction, but a delightful conviction. The doctrine has very often appeared exceedingly bright and sweet. Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God.”

7. Read Isaiah 55:6-9. How does this truth affect your view of God?

God is way smarter than I am and so, therefore, I should be able to trust Him even when I would do it another way. His ways are better than mine!

8. According to 1 John 4:7-12, what is the result or fruit of having the right thoughts about God (knowing Him)?

If you know God, you will love others. If you have the right thoughts about God and his love, that will overflow to loving others.

Why does knowing God result in loving others?

Love is a proof that we are born of God (Fathered by God), what does that imply?

a) What is the proof that God loves us?

The gospel!

b) If the gospel is the evidence that God loved us, how should we use the gospel to help us during tough times?

The gospel is a reminder of how much God loves us even when we don't understand our current circumstances. Preach the gospel to yourself! We never outgrow the gospel. It is the grounds of our forgiveness, the assurance for our everyday faith, and the power for our sanctification. "If God loved me enough to die so I can live, how could he fail to love me in this situation?"

How does Paul use the reality of the gospel in Romans 8:31-32?

c) How should our thinking about the gospel (and what it reveals about God) affect how we treat others?

If God loved me that much, I ought to love others as a display of God's love abiding in me. I will show you a glimpse of God's love towards you through my love towards you.