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”

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

WARM UP

1. What is your favorite color?

2. What do you think is the most beautiful or impressive thing about creation?

DIGGING DEEPER

3. God is good but don't connect that with His rights and designs. In 1 Tim 1:11, Paul calls God "happy" (literal translation of "blessed). How does a happy God effect your view of His purposes for us?

* This may be a hard question to conceptualize. If you are struggling with it, ask how a happy father would change the atmosphere of a home and how it would effect how his kids would view his commands to them.
* If God is happy, eternally happy, then it makes sense that He would create a universe that is aligned with His happiness. In other words, it doesnt make any sense that God would step out of His eternal happiness to create a world that was miserable. God's happiness and goodness are the foundation of the goodness and happy design and purposes in the world.
* How does a happy Father effect the atmosphere of a home?
* How does his happiness effect how his children respond to his commands?

4. God uses symbols to express Himself to us and often uses human terms so that we can understand Him better. Read the following passages and write down the symbolic language used for God and what it tells us about God:

2 Chron 16:9

* Eyes - Talking about God's eyes gives the picture that God sees and knows whats going on. He has sight. "She eyes only for him."

Lev 20:6

* Face - The face represents the whole emotional and intellectual part of a person. "Dude. Get out of my face!"

Neh 1:6

* Ears - This gives the idea of God's ability to hear us when we pray. "Lend me your ear for a minute."

Isa 66:1-2

* Feet and Hands - Talking about what God made (hands) and where He sits as a King on a Throne (footstool). "That guy has skilled hands."

5. Do the symbols God (and the Bible) uses to describe Himself limit our view of Him?

On Sunday, we talked about the reality that God can't fully reveal Himself to us. He is infinite and we are finite. He is too big to be contained in anything we know. Think about God's eternal nature. That is impossible for us to fully grasp. Our view of God this side of heaven will always be limited. So to some extent, our view of God is limited to the ways He has chosen to reveal himself to us.

Do you ever find you put God "in a box?" What boxes do you put God in?

Examples of Boxes: Limit God's sovereignty, God's goodness, God's power, God's ability to forgive, God's right to judge, God's wrath

6. Clint said that man is the "unique climax of God's creation." What differences do you see in how God created man (Gen 1:26-31 & 2:7) from the rest of creation?

* There is a difference in kind. All the plants and animals are created "after their kind" but man is created "In Our image"
* There is a difference in value. All the rest of creation is declared "good" by God but the creation of man is "very good."
* There is a difference in method. God speaks everything else into being but He forms Adam from dust and then breathes life into him.
* There is a difference in the action. God simply creates everything else with a Word but there is a Divine conversation among the Trinity before man is created.
* There is a difference in responsibility. Man is given divine commands that no other creatures are.

7. How does a big view of God change how you view the "images of God?"

If you are in awe of how big God is and understand His infinite value and glory, then when you realize man is stamped with that same glory and value you will be stunned. The Creator of the Universe chose to make creatures that represent His awesomeness!

8. What was the definition of Imago Dei that Clint gave and what were the three critical parts of it?

* Imago Dei is the imprint of God's character on humanity that enables us to reflect His glory and represent His authority in relationship to God, each other, and nature.
	+ Imago Dei is God's design for us to reflect and represent Him in relationship.

Look up Gen 1:26-31 and write down where you see Reflection, Representation, and Relationship.

**Genesis 1:26–28** **(NKJV) —** **26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [**reflection**]; let them have dominion [**representation**] over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them [**relate to others**]. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them [**relate to God**], “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion [**relate to nature**] over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

* + We see reflection in the very concept of Image and likeness, and the reality that God created man “AS his image” or to image Him to the world
	+ We see representation of God’s authority in man’s command to rule over creation and have dominion. We also see it in the command to “be fruitful.” Man is representing the authority of the Creator by continuing the work of creation new image bearers (aka babies).
	+ We see the relationship to God in the simple fact that God spoke directly to man and man could receive God’s words. We see the idea of relationship with other man in the creation of male and female and God’s command to multiply (which implies sexual relationship). We see the relationship to nature in how we are supposed to rule and have dominion over it.

9. The Imago Dei is a radical doctrine if we take it seriously. How can viewing people as images of The God Who Is change walking through the grocery store? Church? Family dinners?

This is an application question designed to being to take the idea of Imago Dei and think about how that changes how you deal with people as reflections of God himself.