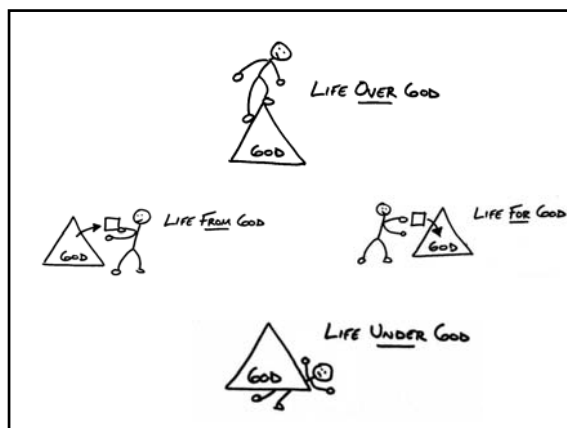


How do we live in relation to God?

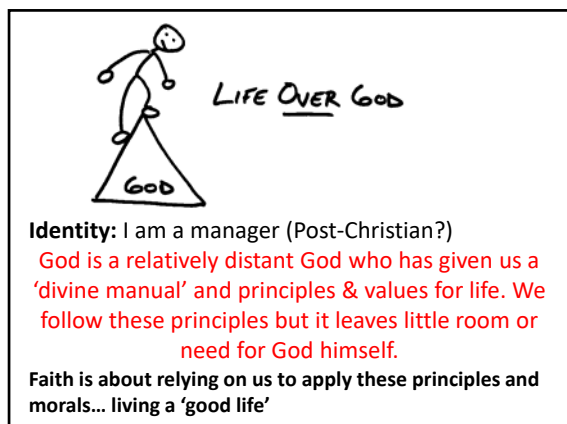


Identity: I am a sinner

We are living under the threat of God's wrath and punishment and must appease him through strict adherence to his 'rules'

- If we are obedient... he will bless us.
- If we are disobedient, we will be punished and suffer.

Faith is about 'following the rules'



Identity: I am a consumer

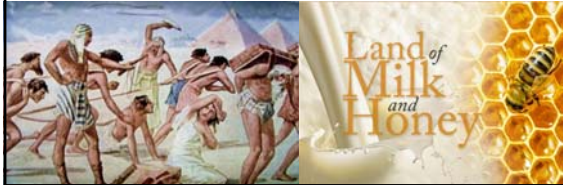
God is a cosmic therapist or a divine 'slot machine.' He is there to meet my needs & fix my life.

Faith is about desiring God's supernatural help & his gifts, but not necessarily desiring Him.

It is about what God can do for us

"Consumerism with a Jesus sticker slapped on the bumper!"

‘Take care lest you forget the Lord your God...when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks multiply...then your heart be lifted up and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery’
(Deuteronomy 8:11-14)



Identity: I am a servant to fulfil God’s calling

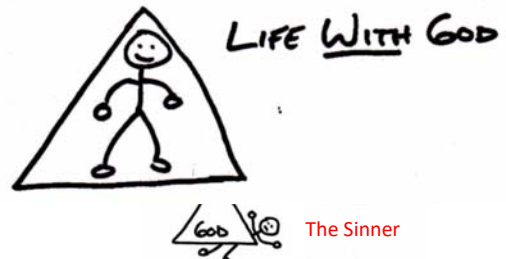
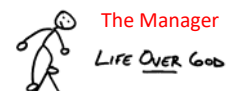
God has called me to a specific mission and my primary call is to accomplish it

- Our value & significance comes from what we do and achieve **FOR** God.
- Danger is that the mission can become the goal rather than God himself.

“I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and I count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him”
(Phil 3:8-9)



“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge” (Eph 3:17-19)



Genesis 3 – God walking ‘in the cool of the day’ with Adam and Eve in the garden.. **CREATION ORDER**



BROKEN...
God’s restoration plan to restore the relationship

Revelation 21:2-3 The new Jerusalem.

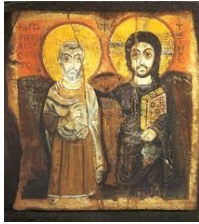
“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying “Now the dwelling of God is **WITH** men, and he will live **WITH** them. They will be his people and God himself will be **WITH** them and be their God.”

CREATION RESTORED

- Enoch (Genesis 5:23-24) ‘Enoch walked **WITH** God 300 years...’
- Moses (Exodus 33) met with God and talked to him face to face ‘as a man speaks with a friend’
- Jesus – Emmanuel – “God **WITH** us”
- Disciples called (Mark 3:14) ‘that they might be **WITH** him and that he might send them out”
- Matthew 11:28 MSG
“...Walk **WITH** me and work **WITH** me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company **WITH** me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”
- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17)
“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be **WITH** you for ever – the Spirit of truth”
- Pentecost (Acts 1 & 2) – wait... for the Holy Spirit to be **WITH** you...
- Acts 4:13 Peter and John ‘ordinary unschooled men... who had been **WITH** Jesus’



LIFE WITH GOD



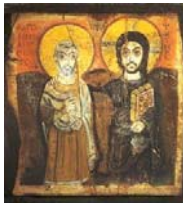
Identity: I am a child & friend of God

1) Our Goal is not to 'use' God or 'be used' by God, but our Goal is to be WITH God.

John Piper.... "The gospel is not a way to get people to heaven; it is a way to get people to God. It is a way to overcome every obstacle to everlasting joy in God. If we don't want God above all things, we have not been converted by the gospel"



LIFE WITH GOD



Identity: I am a child & friend of God

1) Our Goal is not to 'use' God or 'be used' by God, but our Goal is to be WITH God.

2) We are called TO God.

Os Guinness "First and foremost we are called to someone (God) not to something (such as motherhood or politics or teaching), or to somewhere (such as the inner city or Outer Mongolia)"

"What brings a person value, significance, and hope is not what he DOES, but WITH whom he does it.... The call to live in continued communion with God means that every person's life, no matter how mundane is elevated to sacred heights.

Are you married? Then engage your marriage WITH God and learn to love your spouse as God has loved you. Are you single? Then be single with God and devote yourself to him. Are you a mechanic? Then commune with God in your work and repair cars as a devotion to him. Are you an office worker? Then welcome Christ to your desk as you serve your employer. Are you a homemaker? Then foster a life of ceaseless prayer, ever mindful that God is with you, amid your hectic day with your family. In other words the fullness of Christ can be lived anywhere, in any circumstance, because God is WITH us. No condition in life is more honourable than another, because nothing God does lacks value. If he is with is in marriage or singleness, and in the garage, the office or the home, then these very different lives are each significant. Each of them carries the same dignity and hope." (Jethani 'WITH' p151)

So how do we live
WITH God?

- Invite God into all that we do
- Look at things together WITH God & talk to God about everything
- Ask Questions to God.... What do you see? How should I respond? What is important to you? How do I respond?
- Taking time to be WITH God – 'chair' time; 'watchtower' time; 'Go for a walk with God'
- See God as a friend and a helper.... 'Holy Spirit.. the counsellor...helper... will help you to pray... give you the words...'
- Our 'mission' is seeing where God is at work and joining Him,
 - Key question becomes 'God what are you doing here? What are you doing in me? Where are you at work here?



LIFE WITH GOD

What does this mean for you?
What is one thing you could do differently to live more WITH God?

'Learning to live ordinary
lives WITH God'

