



Cat and Dog Theology

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Lecture 1

Introducing Cat and Dog Theology!

Selfish Bride

What would it look like if the church were a selfish bride? This attitude is permeating the church creating a “cancer” inside the church. A cancer we’re not even aware of.

Genesis Chapter 1

Why are most Christians bored? They view the Bible from a people-centered view of the Scriptures. Most don’t get excited until Genesis 3, then they have something to live for... saving the lost world! They have non-verbally communicated to themselves and God that the Bible is all about people.

We are making two bold statements: God is the main character of the Bible and lives to radiate His glory, therefore, God lives for God (He doesn’t live for us). Secondly, the average true believer says the Bible is all about God, but lives as if humanity is ... Humanity often replaces God on the throne. Let’s look at two examples.

First example: What did God get out of Jesus’ death? Most Christians want to say “He got us” but that is jumping straight back into a people-centered perspective! He also received glory, honor, praise, adoration and obedience. Most Christians overlook this.

Second example: Most people don’t want others to go to hell because they’ll suffer (back to a people centered perspective). In Psalm 30:9, David talks about the praise God wouldn’t get.

Depending upon who is the main character of the Bible, you will have two different theologies.

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Two main characters have “birthed” two types of Christianity. These two differences are seen in the different attitudes between a dog and a cat.

A dog says: “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, You must be God.”

A cat says: “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, I must be God.”

There is a Cat and Dog in all of us! They are constantly fighting. They both look and act “Christian” but there is a huge difference in their heart attitude.

Two Different Mindsets are Created!

A Cat says: “God wants to bless me.”

A Dog says: “I want to bless God.”

A Cat says: “God serves me.”

A Dog says: “I serve God.”

A Cat says: “God advances my kingdom.”

A Dog says: “I advance God’s kingdom.”

A Cat says: “God thinks the world of me.”

A Dog says: “I think the world of God.”

A Cat says: “God lives to make me famous!”

A Dog says: “I live to make God famous.”

A Cat says: “God bless America!”

A Dog says: “America Bless God.”

A Cat says: “God is a means to an end.”

A Dog says: “God is the end.”

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6 Quick Differences

#1: Getting To Heaven

Cats have a tendency to walk away from hell. Their sole focus is on themselves. Dogs walk toward heaven having fallen in love with God.

Many Christians today are joyless simply because they are still focused on themselves and are walking away from hell. (Matthew 13:44)

#2: Obedience School

Both Cats and Dogs want obedience in their lives. Dogs want to obey God. Cats want God to obey them. You usually see this reflected in their prayer lives.

#3: Quiet Times

Both Cats and Dogs have quiet times. Dogs focus on God’s glory (they think, “How is God’s reputation being affected by my life?”) and Cats focus on themselves (how can they better their life...?)

#4: Prayers

Praying “Father, thank you for dying on the cross for our sins” is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. He died on the cross for our sins SO THAT we might point to God and glorify Him.

#5: Worship

Dogs worship God primarily for who He is. Cats worship God primarily for what He’s done for them.

#6: Blessings and Glory

Both Cats and Dogs want to see God glorified and want to be blessed by God. Dogs hunger

more for God’s glory whereas Cats hunger more for the blessings.

When God’s glory points to something a Cat doesn’t want, the Cat assumes, “No, that’s not right. I must have heard God’s voice wrong.”

Why do we have Cat Theology?

Why all these differences? Dogs study “Theology” while Cats study “MEology.”

Dogs see God’s glory like a stained glass window. Each bit is called a “tessera.” Each tessera uniquely displays God’s glory, such as the animal kingdom, the family unit, taste, the stars. “Glory is any revelation or expression of His excellency in His presence, creativity and/or character.” One way God chooses to reveal His glory is through blessing us!

Satan’s Strategy

Satan doesn’t want Christians to focus on God’s glory. His strategy is to get humanity to focus in on something “safe” and “close to God’s heart” so their focus is off of God’s glory.

As a result, we begin to think that life is all about *us*. Because of this, we make a foundational shift in our theology. Our focus goes off of God glorifying Himself through blessing us. Our focus is on receiving the blessings from God, and we become primary; God’s glory becomes secondary.

Cats Are Living For Themselves

Cats are basically living for themselves in a Christian context. They’ve rejected other “ways” of life and have chosen Christianity as the best way to live for themselves. Life is still all about them. Their goal is to get from birth to death in the safest, softest, easiest most comfortable fashion possible.

WDGG?

Dogs ask one key question as they go through life: What Does God Get? As a result, they realize that life is for God, it is not for us. They see the joy God had in Genesis 1 while He was creating!

A Prayer Of Repentance

For thinking life was about us and not You,
For advancing our kingdom and not Yours,
For seeking Your blessings more than You,
For an incomplete Christianity,
For mixed-up priorities,
For living for ourselves in a Christian context,
For not seeing Your glory all around us.
We repent. Fill us again with your Holy Spirit that we might live to make You famous.

Lecture 2 The Six Dangers of Cat Theology!

Laying centuries of Cat Theology brings about many dangers in the Christian life.

Danger #1:

Feel Good Theology

Cats only read verses that make them feel good. If they read verses that don't make them feel good, they skip over them and simply say, "That doesn't apply to me" or "That doesn't make sense."

Danger #2:

Cats Expect Life To Be Fair

Look at three lives: Jabez, a "young girl" in 2 Kings 5, and Stephen.

Jabez was greatly blessed. The young girl was sent away as a slave and reached another Gentile leader. Stephen was stoned to death.

Which life was God fair to? It is the wrong question. Life wasn't designed to be fair. Life was designed to be a series of opportunities to reflect and reveal the glory of God. These three lives did that—revealing God's glory is a "golden thread" that runs throughout the entire Bible!

Danger #3:

Winner' Circle Mentality!

When Cats read the Bible, they always focus on the major character, never the minor character—falsely assuming God loves the major character more than the minor.

Why don't we ever relate to: Job's children? The 70,000 fighting men who died because David sinned? David and Bathsheba's firstborn? The firstborn of all Egyptians who died? Korah's wife and children? Wandering around in the desert for 40 years? The 14,700 who died of the plague? The wife and children thrown into the lion's den after Daniel was found innocent?

We don't relate to them because we only want to relate to the "winners" in the Bible.

Danger #4:

Cats Develop Wrong Priorities

A Cat's first priority is to stay alive and be healthy.

Their second priority is safety and security. They do whatever they can to be safe and secure in this world.

Their third priority is the desire to be blessed by God for their own gain.

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Their fourth priority is that their church meets their needs. If their church isn't meeting their needs, they quickly switch churches.

After these are brought before God, they may pray for God's glory. But rarely is the glory of God a first consideration when they first say their prayers.

Way down on the Cat's priority is world missions. They rarely talk about it, and if they do talk about it, they are usually trying to address the needs locally.

Danger #5:

Humanism Creeps In

Humanism essentially means: “the reason for all of existence is the happiness of man.” Humanism has so permeated our society that it has crept into our Christianity in two predominant ways.

1) Liberal Humanism says, “The reason for Christianity is the happiness of mankind when they are alive.” Out of this is born the “health and wealth theology.”

2) Evangelical Humanism says, “The reason for Christianity is the happiness of mankind after they die (i.e. make sure people don't go to hell).

True Christianity says, “The reason for Christianity is to glorify God.”

Danger #6:

Worship Is A Part Of Life!

When Cats are so focused on themselves, they worship God during their quiet times, during Sunday morning services, and possibly while listening to worship music. Everything outside of those times is “everyday life.”

But “everyday life” was designed to be one big worship service. This can happen when we start to ask the simple question, “What Does God Get?”

- What does God get when you hug a child?
What does God get when you see a sunset?
- What does God get when you listen to music?
- What does God get when you look at a flower?
- What does God get when you see a butterfly?
- What does God get when you taste a chocolate covered strawberry?

When you begin to look for what God gets, life can become one big worship service! When this happens, you don't do anything differently in life, you simply do it with an entirely new perspective!

A Prayer To The Lord:

- Lord, we do not live for ourselves, we live for Your greatest glory.
- Bless us with all things or give us nothing.
- Honor us before others or bring us low.
- Put us to doing or appoint us to suffer.
- Give us work or keep us unemployed.
- Send us overseas or keep us home.
- Shatter any dream that is not yours.
- We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal.
- All we ask is that we delight in Your glory!

