

love God by Pursuing God in Prayer

Introduction

- The reality of individuality and personality of the soul
- Personality - “The combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual's distinctive character.”
- Due in part to this variety of human personality - spirituality, Bible reading, prayer, the Christian life, etc. is experienced with differing emphases
- This does not change God or truth
- What I hope this can do is make us more self aware, appreciate others, and know that God works in varying ways in our brothers and sisters
- This is part of the beauty of the body of Christ, how none of us are self-sufficient, and together we are to display the glory of the risen Jesus
- With this in mind, we will look at some of the “tensions” in regards to prayer
- My purpose is not to resolve the tensions, but to seek to hold them together
- What is prayer? One of the most simple, and yet difficult questions of the Christian faith
- Simply, it is our engagement with the Almighty
- Profoundly, it is the interaction between finite and soul-ish beings with the infinite Being
- There is an assumption that such an engagement is possible
- Jesus, God in the flesh, assures us that it is

Tension #1: God's complete knowledge and sovereignty - Our genuine participation in history and God's work

- God's complete knowledge and sovereignty
- Knowledge - Isa40:28 Psa147:5
- Sovereignty - Dan4:34 Eph1:11
- Our genuine participation in history and God's work
- Col4:3 Phi1:19

Tension #2: Intimacy - Action

- God as personal - God as transcendent
- A love affair - Dutiful servant
- Dialogue - Monologue
- Contemplative - Practical
- The Lord's Prayer as including both - Mat6:7-15
- The Psalms as God's inspired and exquisite variety of the full spectrum

Spontaneous - Disciplined

- The moment-by-moment, ongoing, relational, experiential presence of God
- Focused, intentional, purposeful, intensified engagement with God
- Spontaneous - 1Thes5:17 2Tim1:3
- Disciplined - Psa5:3 Mat6:9-13

Application

- Don't attempt to resolve tensions, but embrace them and act in worshipful response in their all being true
- Recognize your own personality and tendencies, and areas of possible growth
- Appreciate other brothers and sisters, and learn from their experiences with God
- Realize how this core value interfaces all others
- Pray! in all the varieties of biblical expressions

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