

WHEN PEOPLE ARE BIG & GOD IS SMALL

Study Guide: Chapter 8 - "Biblically Examine Your Felt Needs"

1. What are the three components of liberation from the fear of man? (135)
2. In what unbiblical way do we tend to see ourselves in regard to change? (136)

THE POPULAR VIEW OF PEOPLE

3. What three different clusters of meaning do people usually use to categorize their felt needs?
4. What biblical passages legitimize each of these categories? (138-140) How does God provide for those "needs"?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c. (be careful here)
5. Read 1 Thes 4:3. Why is it important that we do not define sex as a biological need? (138)

6. Complete the quotation. “Our lives proceed out of our . . .” (141)

7. In trying to find a biblical proof text for psychological needs, people usually misuse one of which two biblical ideas to prove their point? (141-145) Why can these two ideas not be used to support the idea of psychological needs?
 - a.

 - b.
Why is it wrong to describe God as being needy?

Pastoral Note: I disagree with the author’s view that man has only two parts. I believe that the Bible does portray man as having three. In spite of this minor difference, the author makes a very good criticism of the “psychological needs” viewpoint in this section. Don’t miss the value here.

8. What does the need based theory suggest about what our deepest problem is?

9. To assume that “needs” is the real core problem creates what to issues? (146)

10. When psychological needs, rather than our sin, are seen as our primary problem what is changed? Why did Jesus really die? (146-147)

11. How does scripture question the whole purpose of psychological needs? (147)

WHERE DO PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS COME FROM?

12. When did the momentum of human life start moving inward instead of toward God? (148)
13. Is it wrong to desire? Why or why not?(149)
14. How do we “sinfully exalt desire”? (149)
15. Why does Christ fail to fulfill those who are looking for Him to fulfill their “psychological needs”?
16. When will we finally be free of our sinful lusts? (150)
17. What is the main reason that there is an epidemic of emptiness?

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

18. What must we do when we realize we are following our self-centered desires? (151)

Big Idea: “Psychological needs” are most often just our sin nature hiding behind the varnish of modern thought. Repentance from sin is the key!