

Theme: False Christian Assumptions

Assumption 5 “If I have God, I don’t need people.”

Roy was a successful Christian businessman with a wife and children. One day he was “fine,” the next day he had moved out of his house and virtually disappeared for more than a year. When Roy returned to his home, he confided in a Christian friend about the year he spent away. He told his friend that he had been under extreme pressure and in deep depression. Other friends had given him loads of advice and he had spent hours in prayer and Bible study trying to conquer his emotional pain. He had seriously contemplated suicide. But one day his neighbor, a non-Christian, visited Roy to borrow a screw driver, and Roy ended up pouring his heart out to this man. He told of his business pressures and marriage struggles, his abusive mother and absent father, his acting-out school years and his brother who had let him down. His neighbor had just listened and asked questions without offering advice. After their conversation and spending time with some of his neighbor’s friends who were struggling just like him, Roy began to feel better. Much better. He had the courage to re-enter life again. But he was confused. “Why did hanging out with a bunch of ordinary people help me?” he asked his friend. “Why wasn’t God enough for my needs?”

A. The “me and God” syndrome

B. Isn’t God sufficient?

1. God uses people to meet people’s needs

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. Don’t downplay the incarnation

Discussion Questions

1. God uses people to meet people's needs – as we see throughout Scripture. Without even opening your Bible, list four or five examples from scripture of people meeting other people's needs – and even Jesus' needs.
2. It's almost impossible for "just me and God" proponents to live as they teach. Imagine a parent leaning over a crying infant's crib, telling her to be comforted by God, and then walking away! What are two or three other real life scenes that illustrate how this crazy-making teaching breaks down in real life? Which of Jesus' teachings do these examples violate?
3. Why is letting God meet our needs through other people key to the correct functioning of the body of Christ? What is the body of Christ supposed to do?
4. Why is it sometimes difficult for a person to seek help from other people rather than directly from God?
5. What are the benefits of turning to other people in times of loneliness, pressure, depression, and the like?

God made us so that we would need Him and other people. Allow Him to touch you through whatever or whomever He desires.

For further study/discussion

Read 2 Corinthians 3:5

Some interpret this verse to mean that we are sufficient in Jesus and Jesus alone, leading believers to the "me and God" syndrome: it's me and God against the world. If He's beside me, I need no one else. This distorted teaching says that going to people for spiritual and emotional needs is wrong. This crazy-making assumption tells people who turn to other people for help that they lack faith; that their view of God is small or limited, that they are proud, and even that they are sinning. But this teaching is not upheld by the Bible or life experiences.

Read Galatians 6:2

People need people. People are God's resources, and He uses us to meet people's needs with love. This is the essence of ministry. Jesus uses other people to help us to grow, to comfort us, to give us wisdom, and to repair us. What if Philip, when asked by the eunuch, how can I understand the Scriptures unless someone explains them to me, had said, "Well, you need to lean on God to understand these words. See ya." Or if the Philippian Church hadn't supplied Paul's material needs, or the women didn't follow Jesus and minister to Him? What if a mother stood over the crib of a crying infant, told her baby to be comforted by God, and walked away? Or a husband never showed affection to his wife because Christ loved her and that's enough? Obviously, Jesus relies on us to be His physical body in the world and minister to one another in love.