

I WANT TO KNOW YOU

Do you remember how you felt the first time you talked to your best friend, or when you finally got the nerve to speak to that girl you had a crush on for three years? Getting to know people can be a wonderful, stressful experience. It's so awkward and challenging at first, but that seems to make the experience all that more rewarding. Letting someone really know you takes courage and perseverance. We have to spend weeks really communicating and doing the "small talk" dance. So what keeps us going? Why do we continue to do this same routine of getting to know people over and over again? Why? Because we want to get close to people, we want to share our lives with people, we want to be needed and loved.

Getting to know God takes many of the same experiences as getting to know your soon-to-be best friend. The first requirement needed to get to know someone is to spend time together. We have to make a valiant effort to spend as much time with that person as possible. It's the same with God. How many of us do not spend enough time with Him to really know Him? We all complain because we don't feel close enough to God, but do we really take the time to get to know Him? The next requirement in getting to know someone is talking to them. When we really want to get to know someone, the conversation never ends. We talk about one thing and that subject flows into another one. Before the conversation has ended you've covered all the basics and then more. Why do we expect any less from God? He wants to talk to us too. We think that we are just going to be extremely close to God and never speak to Him. What kind of friendship would we have with someone if we never spoke to one another?

God has already done His part. He wants to spend time with us, wants to talk to us, and wants to get to know us. The problem is, do we feel the same? Ever had someone you really wanted to get to know, but they weren't interested? Hurts, doesn't it? Many times God feels the same way. When we decide that we REALLY want to know who God is we'll make time to spend with Him and to talk with Him.

GOD CREATED EACH OF US

First of all, God showed His love for us by bringing us into existence. He created each one of us. The even greater aspect is that God created each one of us individually unique. We are each one-of-a-kind. God didn't create one mold and simply fit us all into that design. No, He took time and used special details for each one of us. None of us look exactly the same. None of us have the exact same personality or characteristics. God loved us enough to create each of us differently, in His image. As said in verse 24, God created the heavens and earth and everything in them. God has need of nothing since He is the one who gave breath and life to everything. (25) He didn't need a shrine built by human hands to live in, which was an amazement to the Greeks who built marvelous buildings

for their gods. God created each of us for a purpose and a reason. Each of us has our special place in His heart, as He made each of us unique. All He wants in return is our love and devotion.

GOD LOVES EACH OF US

Not only did God love and care for us enough to create us, but He desperately longs for a close and continual relationship with each of us. He showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners He sent His one and only Son to die for our sins. Who else has shown that type of love for us? He sent His Son hoping that we would accept Him as our personal Savior. He longs for us to be close to Him. He is never far away from us.(27) He is there ready to spend quality and personal time with us, yet many times we push Him away without even noticing. For only when we live close to God are we really even living. God is constantly reaching out to us, wanting us to take His hand. He loves us so much and wants our love in return. A key component of any relationship is love and compassion. God has given us and shown us more love than any other person. His love reaches to the heavens and will never end. We should constantly grow more in love with God, as He loves us daily.

GOD WILL JUDGE EACH OF US

While God did create and love each one of us, there will also come a time when God will judge each of us. God wants all of us to repent of our sins and to turn to Him. He loves us all so much that He wants everyone to accept His son and receive salvation. However, God cannot let this continue on forever and thus must judge everyone. He commands that all people repent before it's too late. He expects and desires proper and correct living and if we do mess up He wants us to repent of our sins. This is the least that we can do for a God who created us and still loves us despite our shortcomings. There will come a day when God will judge all according the decision we make about Jesus Christ. He showed us the proof of His righteousness and power by raising Jesus from the grave. All that He is asking is that we accept His Son as the Savior of our lives. God will judge each of us and we need to accept His Son as our personal Savior and then live a life "worthy of the calling."

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