

23T03 Is God Egocentric?

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

I was asked a very odd question? Is God Egocentric? I was not prepared for this. At first, I was a little offended. It is true that many non-Christians use this kind of argument. Why is God all about God, if He is such a loving, caring God?

Let's pray. Heavenly Father thank you. Thank you for being so patient with us when we ask questions. Thank you for giving us the tools and information to address these questions. Guide our conversation today such that it glorifies you. I trust you, Lord. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

So, Egocentric? Egocentric is defined as thinking only of oneself, without regard for the feelings or desires of others; self-centered. I don't really like any of these definitions. Another word that is used is Egomaniac. People like this can only see the world, events and other people from their perspective. Self-benefiting perspective. No one likes an egomaniac because everything is only about them.

So, when God demands worship or God is jealous, we often bristle. Critiques say, this God only cares for himself. The phrases "*I am the Lord*" or "*you will know that I am the Lord*" appears nearly two thousand times in the Old Testament alone. "*I am your God*" appears some 240 times. You get the idea. '

Typically, if someone talks about themselves a lot, they are insecure or self-absorbed or both. But God is not like us.

First, if God was really only about God, then why would we exist in the first place. People are horrible, "yet while we were still sinners" Jesus came to make a way for us to have a relationship with him. He did this for us. He did not have to. He's God remember, He does not need us. Yet He chooses to love us anyway. Even when we reject him. God still loves us. That does not sound like an egocentric self-centered God.

In the Old Testament, we have story after story of God being patient with people. Longsuffering is the term often used. God is God, He could just kill us, but He doesn't. God displays an infinite amount of grace when we reject Him. Then of course, there are consequences. But I think we miss the long periods of time in the Bible. God warns and warns and warns. God sends message after message after message. God shows great restraint. That is the very opposite of self-centered.

In the New Testament, Jesus shows us how best to live. Jesus, God, creator of everything, serves others, he gives his time freely, he shines away from notoriety. Jesus repeatedly tells the people he heals not to tell anyone about him. That is not

egocentric. Jesus demonstrated great humility on earth. So, no. Jesus is not egocentric or self-centered.

But can God be egocentric? Well, if anyone can, God can. What I mean is God made everything, owns everything, controls everything. So yes, it's all about God. But by definition, God can't not be self-centered, He is the center of everything because nothing can exist without God.

Now I could quote you lots of bible to prove my point, but I think a couple examples will be better.

First. I have kids. I'm sure all of you were kids once. Did your parents demand that you do what they tell you to do? I know I tell my kids to do this or that. I expect them to do it, because I'm the parent. I don't demand they be obedient because I want recognition or because I want to be in charge. Quite the opposite. I want my children to be safe. I want them to grow up knowing right and wrong. Their lives as young children are centered around me and my wife, but it's not because we are egocentric, it's because we love our kids and want the very best for them.

How about this. Say you are doing a project at school or work. You work hard, you spend lots of time and effort to do the very best project you can do. Do you deserve to be congratulated or rewarded? Are you being egocentric if you expect to be acknowledged for your hard work? I don't think so, you did the work, it is natural to expect to be acknowledged.

Or imagine you invent something amazing. Should you be recognized for inventing? Should you be paid and rewarded for your invention? Okay, I think we would all agree. But what if you make this amazing discovery and decide not to share it with the world? Is that not your prerogative, since it's your invention. You can control it because it is yours.

Or what if you cook an amazing meal? You spend your money on the ingredients, you spend hours and hours preparing the food. Do you deserve to be praised for your efforts? It's your hard work, of course you expect to be the center of attention about your meal.

These are all examples of times when because of your position or efforts you feel like you should be the center of attention. You can rightfully demand to be the center of attention. It's not egocentric at all. You have that right, it's yours.

What about God. God created everything. God owns everything, including us. God can actually do whatever He wants with his stuff, his creation. It is actually impossible for the maker of something to be egocentric over the creation. They are in control of the creation; the creation is subject to them. So yes, God has a right to do whatever he wants to do. That is not egocentric, it is ownership,

This is like my dog. I own a dog. I demand obedience from my dog. I expect my dog to do whatever I tell it to do. Why, because it's my dog. I have a right for the dog I own to do whatever I tell it to do. That is not egocentric, it's ownership.

Let's Pray. Father God, thank you for being patient with us Lord. Many doubt, help them to search for you. I know Lord you are there with them. May you give them what they need to see you, feel you. I pray this in your name, Lord Jesus Amen

Let me leave you with this. When we create, we think we own what we create. We think we deserve to be honored for what we have. We had kids, they are our kids. We want the best for them, which is why we want them to obey us and focus on us and what we want them to do. How much more God, who created everything and everyone. God wants the best for us. So, obviously God knows what is best for us. God has every right to demand to be the center of everything, because God is the center of everything, but God still allows us to choose, God still is patient with us when we fail. God sacrificed to make a way for us to be close to him. That does not sound very self-centered to me.

Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA CoffeeTable. If you liked the message, please share a link with a friend. You can contact me at kip@punla.org if you have comments or questions. So, until next time @ the PUNLA CoffeeTable. God bless.