

IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD!

...andYou

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Just what is it that's ALL about God? The answer is *everything!* All means all and that's all that all means. Absolutely *everything* is about God! The world, sun, stars, moon, planets, oceans, lakes, mountains, trees, birds, animals, you, me, all humans, life itself—you name it—*everything* is about God and we can be certain about it. How? A skeptic might ask.

**Because He is the Creator. He made it all.
He owns it all! It's all His!
Everything is under His control!
Everything in His creation points to Him.
He is the great I AM!⁽¹⁾**

The Bible confirms it over and over again. Listen to these few examples of the many things the Bible has to say about God as Creator and His ownership and control of all His creation:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Psalm 33:6

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Genesis 1:27

For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Psalm 50:10-12

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. Psalm 89:11

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Psalm 24:1

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:36

If we agree that God created and owns all things, other questions naturally follow. **Why did God create the world, mankind, animals and all things? Why did He create you? Why did He create me?** Well, the Bible has answers for those questions also. Here's just two of the many Scriptures where answers can be found:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. Colossians 1:16. (Emphasis mine).

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:11 (Emphasis mine).

There should be no doubt that God created all things and He did so for **Himself**—for **His** pleasure. How sad that more and more we have allowed the idea that God exists for mankind's benefit to dominate us. We have forgotten that we exist for God's enjoyment. We have lost sight of the *Who* and *Why* of creation and the true purpose of our life upon this earth. Unfortunately, in today's world the emphasis is most often on *self*, not on God.

Although it may seem somewhat contradictory, as the title to this booklet indicates, it's also about you and me, but only in the sense of the purpose for which we were created and whether or not we are living according to that purpose.

It just stands to reason that if we were created for God's pleasure, as Revelation 4:11 states, then the work we should be about is pleasing Him and having a relationship with us is what pleases Him most. This is our reason for existence. This is our mission. He wants us, His favorite creation, to return His love. He wants us to talk with Him. He wants us to praise Him. He wants us to applaud Him for the grace and mercy He shows. He wants to be our Father and we His children. That's why *it's all about God—and You*.

As we consider these things may I ask you several questions?

How do you feel about God? Perhaps you have never paused and considered exactly how you do feel about our Creator and put those feelings into words. Why not do so now? Take a few moments and think of what God means to you and what your most inner feelings about Him really are. Put your thoughts into words. Express aloud

exactly how you feel and then write these thoughts for future reference.

Now that you have put in writing your thoughts concerning God, may I also ask, *How do you feel about Jesus? Who do you believe Jesus is and what does He mean to you?* Again, please take the time now to thoughtfully record your thoughts.

And what about heaven and hell? Do you believe they exist or perhaps you're not really sure. Maybe just heaven but not hell? A lot of people think that way. You may want to give this one extra thought.

May I now ask a most important question? *"If you died today, where would you go? What would happen to you?"* If you answered that you would go to heaven, *could you tell me why you believe you would be allowed to enter? What do you think qualifies you to spend eternity in heaven?*

Assuming you have responded to these five questions, I'm going to take for granted that the answers you gave are what you really believe. But I'm also going to assume that you might not be sure of some of these things. If the beliefs you have expressed were not completely true, I'm also sure you would want to know it. If I'm correct, then I ask your permission to share something with you that a friend of mine shared with me that helped me understand all this that we've discussed a lot better.

Many years ago, my friend and a pastor he was friends with to developed a progressive illustration which he has used hundreds of times with many people. Since his name is *Dr. "Duke" Heller*, I call it the *Heller Illustration*. I'd like to share it with you now. Later, you may want to share it with others also.

— THE ILLUSTRATION —

To begin the illustration, my friend used an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper and folded it like you see in Picture (1) below.

He then folded the top back like in Picture (2).
The paper now looked like Picture (3).

My friend then wrote the words and drew the pictures on his illustration.

This is what my friend then explained. In the beginning there was God and God was holy. God created the heavens and the earth and all the animals and things that grow, and then He created Adam and Eve.

In reality God created two Adams all in one person and two Eves all in one person. He created *physical* Adam and He created *physical* Eve. But He also created *Spiritual* Adam and *Spiritual* Eve. The Bible tells us (Genesis 2:7) that the Lord God breathed into man's nostrils His very own breath of life and man became a living soul. The *Spirit of God*—the very life of God—was in both Adam and Eve. They were *born* physically and they were *born* Spiritually. They had both *physical* life and *Spiritual* life. The "S's" above the stick figures denote *Spiritual* life and the "P's" denote *physical* life.

At that time Adam and Eve had a perfect relationship with God. They were in agreement in all things and God was well pleased with His creation, particularly Adam and Eve's recognition of His sovereignty. And then things drastically changed.

God had placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and had given them control over all His creation with no restrictions except one. They were forbidden to eat the fruit of a tree known as *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*. We refer to it as an apple tree, however, we do not know exactly what type of fruit the tree bore. God was very definite about this restriction and even told them that if they did eat the fruit of this tree, *"they would surely die."*

Despite God's command and warning to Adam and Eve, Satan, in the form of a serpent, was successful in convincing Eve that God hadn't really meant what He said. As is true whenever Satan tempts any of us, he makes it sound as though good things, not bad, would happen if they disregarded God's instruction. First Eve and then Adam, in defiance of God, yielded to Satan's temptation and ate the forbidden fruit. When this happened, for the first time *sin* entered into the world. My friend printed the word "**SIN**" under the stick figures.

In the next picture, notice the stick figures which depict the descendants of Adam and Eve.

Sin is any thought or action not in accordance with the will or commandments of God. God is a loving God, but He also is a *just* God and *justice* demands a penalty for sin—and the penalty is *death—Spiritual death!* In Adam and Eve's case, the penalty was inflicted. God withdrew His Spiritual life from them as He had promised and they died—*Spiritually*.

At this time, my friend placed large 'X's' over the *Spiritual* stick figures to show their *Spiritual* death.

He explained that because God is holy, He cannot be in the presence of sin. He mentioned that death always involves separation. Physical death results in separation of the human soul and spirit from the human body but *Spiritual death results in separation from God*.

And now my friend did something I will never forget, and which for the first time clearly showed me how tragic this first sin was and the effect it has had on all generations since Adam and Eve.

My friend opened the folded paper to reveal the huge chasm that now existed with God on one side and "man" completely isolated from Him on the other side!

When mankind (Adam and Eve) yielded to the desires of Satan rather than those of God, "man" acquired a sin nature and became a servant of sin—a servant of Satan. A holy God had no choice but to distance Himself from His human creation. "Man" was now *Spiritually* dead and living apart from God.

God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply which they did. Since then, millions upon millions of people have been physically born and it all began with Adam and Eve. Each of us is their descendant.

Figure 5

When they are born, all people have at least three things in common:

- We enter this world separated from God.
- We all arrive with the same sin nature which *Father* Adam and *Mother* Eve acquired when they disobeyed God.
- We are born *Spiritually* dead. We can inherit human physical characteristics, but *Spiritual* life cannot be inherited. It **must** be **given** by **God**.

