

The Relentless Lover

In the Grip of Grace - 1

We have so many differing impressions about God. Some envision God as a stern tyrant, just waiting with club in hand to clobber the next person to “get out of line.” For others, God is more like a benevolent grandfather, not likely to be roused by much of anything.

So much confusion exists today about God. Can we know anything definitive about God? Exactly what *is* God about?

The book of Romans claims to be a reliable, behind-the-scenes explanation of what God--who created everything in the first place--has been doing all along. The message of Romans (as well as the Bible) points to a God who delights in being known and actually seeks those who would know more about Him (Acts 17:24-28)! It was written by one who considered it his life’s privilege to help people understand and respond to this extraordinary message (Eph. 3:2-5).

LOOKING BACK:

When did God become more than just a word for you?

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Romans 1:1-5

1. *Have you--at any point in your life--ever doubted whether it was possible to know anything definitive about God? Explain.*
2. *What do you learn from these opening verses about the message of Romans?*
3. According to Romans 1:16-17, the message of Romans has to do with God’s righteousness, that is--“**God’s way of putting people right.**” As we explore Romans, we will learn about a God who goes to great lengths to restore broken relationships. *What strikes you as the most significant implications of these verses?*
4. E. Stanley Jones said, “Religions are man’s search for God; the Gospel is God’s search for man. There are many religions, but one Gospel.” *Do you agree or disagree?*
5. Share a passage in the Bible that paints your favorite “word picture” of God. *Why is this particular passage so meaningful to you?*
6. *Did Max Lucado’s article, “His Voice, Our Choice” stimulate any additional thoughts as to God’s involvement in your life?*

**PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS**