

Does God Agree With Us?

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"A family of five was rushed to the hospital to have their stomachs washed out after the cat with which they had shared a meal of mushrooms suddenly began to have stomach contractions. While members of the family showed no signs of illness, the doctor still had them rushed to the hospital. When they returned home they found the cat feeling well, after having produced five kittens" (England Post, in Homemade, April 1989).

It's funny how our assumptions can drive us. Sure, maybe it doesn't make us rush to the hospital because our cat's tummy was rumbling, but in general, assumptions are hard to avoid. We jump to conclusions about people based on their appearance, how they talk, where they're from, or things that have happened in their past. We assume people know things that we haven't told them. We assume they should know certain things when they may not. We might even assume they don't know information that they do know. We make assumptions about preachers and youth ministers. We make assumptions about children and parents. We make assumptions about elders and deacons. We make assumptions about teens and the elderly. We make a lot of assumptions.

However, by far the most dangerous assumptions that can be made are ones about God. For a variety of reasons, people have jumped to the conclusion that God is like us and, therefore, thinks like us. If we feel like people should be able to be saved in a different way than Scripture says, we assume God would agree with us. If we feel like God would enjoy a particular type of worship because we like it, we assume He would agree with us. If we feel like something should be accepted in the church because culture accepts it, we assume God would agree with us.

We need to make things clear, God does not think like us. In fact, it's impossible for our level of reasoning to even approach God's. Isaiah 55:8-9 makes this abundantly clear, "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

If this isn't clear enough, God makes it about as transparent as possible. Psalm 50:16, 21-22 explains, "But to the wicked God says, 'What right have you to tell of My statutes and to take My covenant in your mouth?'... 'These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver.

Let's make no mistake; God is not like us. We are weak. We are fragile. We are often mistaken. We are sinful. So when we ask the question, "Does God agree with us?" the answer is very clear. No! He doesn't agree with us. Therefore, we are left with one option. We must agree with God. Speak where He speaks. Follow where He leads. Obey what He commands. Nothing less, nothing more (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

Will we have the courage to put our assumptions about what we think God wants aside and just do what He instructs us in Scripture? Few are willing to do so (Matthew 7:13-14). Let's be one of the few.