Sinners in the Hands of Loving God
Pastor Brian Zahnd - December 29, 2013

SERMON STUDY QUESTIONS

Welcome

1) When you were a kid did you view God as a kind old man? A scary monster? Something else? Why?

Word

Read Jeremiah 31:20 from *The Message Bible: "Oh! Ephraim is my dear, dear son, my child in whom I take pleasure! Every time I mention his name, my heart bursts with longing for him! Everything in me cries out for him. Softly and tenderly I wait for him.*"
1) What does this verse reveal to you about the heart of God towards his children?
2) Re-read this verse, but insert your name in place of "Ephraim," and ask yourself, "What is God's attitude towards me according to this verse?"

Read John 1:14-18
1) How does Jesus make the Father known to us?
2) When you see Jesus in action in the Bible what do you see him doing? What does this reveal to us about the character and nature of God?
3) Does Jesus ever look like the angry "god" mentioned in the following lines?
"The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked. His wrath towards you burns like fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire. He is of purer eyes than to bear you in his sight; you are ten thousand times as abominable in his eyes as the most hateful, venomous serpent is in ours." (From the sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" by Jonathan Edwards)
4) What would cause a person to think of God as angry and vindictive?
5) What does it mean to fear God? Why is the fear of God more like honor than terror?

Read Luke 6:35-36
1) How is the command to love our enemies rooted in God's love for sinners?
2) What would be the problem with God hating sinners and yet command us to love them?
3) Even if you view yourself as "an enemy of God," what is God's attitude towards enemies according to Jesus in these verses?

Work

1) What needs to change in your thinking to see God's love for you in a new way?

Worship

1) Psalm for the Day - Sun: 63 / Mon: 64 / Tue: 65 / Wed: 66 / Thu: 67 / Fri: 68 / Sat: 69
2) Pray for one another