

“Cat and Dog Theology”

Lecture 1 Introducing Cat and Dog Theology!

Genesis Chapter 1

Why are most Christians bored? They view the Bible from a people-centered view of the Scriptures. Most don't get excited until Genesis 3, then they have something to live for...saving the lost world! They have non-verbally communicated to themselves and God that the Bible is all about people.

We are making two bold statements: God is the main character of the Bible and lives to radiate His glory, therefore, God lives for God (He doesn't live for us). Secondly, the average true believer says the Bible is all about God, but lives as if it is all about people. Humanity often replaces God on the throne. Let's look at two examples.

First example: What did God get out of Jesus' death and resurrection? Most Christians want to say “He got us” but that is jumping straight back into a people-centered perspective! He also received glory, honor, praise, adoration, and obedience. Most Christians overlook this.

Second example: Most people don't want others to go to hell because they'll suffer (back to a people-centered perspective). In Psalm 30:9, David talks about the praise God wouldn't get.

Depending upon who is the main character of the Bible, you will have two different theologies.



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Two main characters have “birthed” two types of Christianity. These two differences are seen in the different attitudes between a dog and a cat.

A dog says: “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, You must be God.”

A cat says: “You pet me, you feed me, you shelter me, you love me, I must be God.”

There is a Cat and Dog in all of us! They are constantly at odds. They both look and act “Christian” but there is a huge difference in their heart attitude.

Getting To Heaven

Cats have a tendency to walk away from hell. Their sole focus is on themselves. Dogs walk toward heaven, having fallen in love with God.

Many Christians today are joyless simply because they are still focused on themselves and are walking away from hell. (Matthew 13:44)

Obedience School

Both Cats and Dogs want obedience in their lives. Dogs want to obey God. Cats want God to obey them. You usually see this reflected in their prayer lives.

Quiet Times

Both Cats and Dogs have quiet times. Dogs focus on God's glory (they think, “How is God's reputation being affected by my life?”) and Cats focus on themselves (how can they better their life?)

Prayer

Dogs pray to establish God's kingdom. Cats pray to establish their own kingdom.

Blessings and Responsibilities

Cats want all the blessings and none of the responsibilities.

As a result, many major problems arise in Cat Theology. For instance, an *incomplete theology* comes about, and Cats have *mixed-up priorities*.

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Incomplete Theology

Over time, Cat Theology develops into an incomplete theology.

Cats are saved “from hell” and it stops there. This is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. Dogs are saved “from hell, **FOR WORSHIP**”.

In Our Prayers

Praying “Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for our sins” is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. He died on the cross for our sins SO THAT we might point to God and glorify Him.

In Our Blessings

Cats focus on gathering all of God’s blessings into a bucket. And once they have them, they keep them to themselves.

Dogs gather as many blessings as they can from God and pass them on to others. They know that the blessings are meant to go through them to others.

Mixed-Up Priorities Blessings and Glory

Both Cats and Dogs want to see God glorified and want to be blessed by God. Dogs hunger more for God’s glory whereas Cats hunger more for the blessings.

Worship

Dogs worship God primarily for who He is. Cats worship God primarily for what He’s done for them, which is not true worship but praise.

Tessera

Why all these differences? Dogs study “Theology” while Cats study “MEology.”

Dogs see God’s glory as a stained glass window. Each bit is called a “tessera.” Each tessera uniquely displays God’s glory, such as the animal kingdom, the family unit, taste, or the stars.

Satan’s Strategy

Satan doesn’t want Christians to focus on God’s glory. His strategy is to get humanity to focus in on something “safe” and “close to God’s heart” so that their focus is off of God’s glory.

As a result, we begin to think that life is all about **us**. Because of this, we make a foundational shift in our theology. Our focus goes off of God glorifying Himself through blessing us. Our focus is on receiving the blessings from God, and we become primary; God’s glory becomes secondary.

Cats Are Living For Themselves

Cats are basically living for themselves in a Christian context. They’ve rejected other “ways” of life and have chosen Christianity as the best way to live for themselves. Life is still all about them.

WDGG?

Dogs ask one key question as they go through life: What Does God Get? As a result, they realize that life is for God, it is not for us. They see the joy God had in Genesis 1 while He was creating!

A Prayer Of Repentance

For thinking life was about us and not You,
For advancing our kingdom and not Yours,
For seeking Your blessings more than You,
For an incomplete theology,
For mixed-up priorities,
For living for ourselves in a Christian context,
For not seeing Your glory all around us.
We repent. Fill us again with your Holy Spirit that we might live to make You famous.

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Lecture 2 The Eight Dangers of Cat Theology!

Laying centuries of Cat Theology brings about many dangers in the Christian life.

Danger #1:

Feel Good Theology

Cats only read verses that make them feel good. If they read verses that don't make them feel good, they skip over them and simply say, “That doesn't apply to me” or “That doesn't make sense.”

Danger #2:

Cats Always Look For Themselves

Cats are constantly looking for themselves in the Bible. They constantly ask “How does this affect me? How does it affect my life?” When they find themselves, they rejoice, but they are never thinking about God.

Cats and Dogs read John 3:16 totally differently. Dogs focus in on the fact that God loves anyone unconditionally and Cats focus in on themselves in the verse.

Ephesians 2:6,7 gives a perfect example of how we focus in on ourselves. The text basically tells us that God has saved us to show off His glory, and all we can do is focus in on “us” and say “it's all about us!”

Danger #3:

Cats Expect Life To Be Fair

Look at three lives: Jabez, a “young girl” in 2 Kings 5, and Stephen.

Jabez was greatly blessed. The young girl was sent away as a slave and reached a Gentile world leader. Stephen was stoned to death.

Which life was God fair to? That is the wrong question. Life wasn't designed to be fair. Life was designed to be a series of opportunities to reflect and reveal the glory of God. All three of these lives did that. Revealing God's glory is a “golden thread” that runs throughout the entire Bible!

Danger #4:

Selective Application

Many times we only apply those passages of Scripture which benefit us. Rarely are we reading (much less memorizing) passages which deal with God's desire to glorify Himself through giving us the tough times (1 Peter 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 3:2-4).

Why aren't we taught lessons like...

- God wants you to live, breathe, eat, and die in slavery to teach future generations a lesson?
- Your siblings are going to sell you off as a slave so God can use you in a foreign land?
- God may want you to marry a person from another culture just so you can bond with your in-law and be shown kindness after your spouse dies?
- You are to be a prophet to the church, be jailed, and see no fruit for the majority of your years of ministry?
- God may want our country to be invaded (devastated) to get the Gospel out?
- God may want you thrown into a blazing fire to show His power?
- God may want you stoned to death?
- God may want you taken from your home (forcefully?) to become a leader in another country and then be cheated and thrown into a lion's den?
- God may want a famine to come to your land so you move to another country and share your faith?
- God may want you to become a slave to reach out to another people?
- God may want you in jail to share your

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faith with others?

- God is going to test you by having all your assets taken away, by having your children killed, and by inflicting you with severe pain?
- God may want you beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, naked, cold and hungry, alone in the sea, beaten with 39 lashes multiple times?

Danger #5:

Winner’s Circle Mentality!

When Cats read the Bible, they always focus on the major character, never the minor character—falsely assuming God loves the major character more than the minor.

Why don’t we ever relate to: Job’s children? The 70,000 fighting men who died because David sinned? David and Bathsheba’s firstborn? The firstborn of all Egyptians who died? Korah’s wife and children? Wandering around in the desert for 40 years? The 14,700 who died of the plague? The wife and children thrown into the lion’s den after Daniel was found innocent?

We don’t relate to them because we only want to relate to the “winners” in the Bible.

Danger #6:

Cats Develop Wrong Priorities

A Cat’s first priority is to stay alive and be healthy.

Their second priority is safety and security. They do whatever they can to be safe and secure in this world.

Their third priority is the desire to be blessed by God for their own gain.

Their fourth priority is that their church meets their needs. If their church isn’t meeting their needs, they quickly switch churches.

After these are brought before God, they may pray for God’s glory. But rarely is the glory of God a first consideration when they first say their prayers.

Way down on the Cat’s priority is world missions. They rarely talk about it, and if they do talk about missions, they are usually trying to address the needs locally.

Danger #7:

Humanism Creeps In

Humanism essentially means: “the reason for all of existence is the happiness of man.” Humanism has so permeated our society that it has crept into our Christianity in two predominant ways.

1) Liberal Humanism says, “The reason for Christianity is the happiness of mankind when they are alive.” Out of this is born the “health and wealth theology.”

2) Evangelical Humanism says, “The reason for Christianity is the happiness of mankind after they die (i.e. make sure people don’t go to hell).

True Christianity says, “The reason for Christianity is the glory of God.”

Danger #8:

Worship Is A Part Of Life!

When Cats are so focused on themselves, they worship God during their quiet times, during Sunday morning services, and possibly while listening to worship music. Everything outside of those times is “everyday life.”

But “everyday life” was designed to be one big worship service. This can happen when we start to ask the simple question, “What Does God Get (‘WDGG’)?”

➤ What does God get when you hug a child?

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- What does God get when you see a sunset?
- What does God get when you listen to music?
- What does God get when you look at a flower?
- What does God get when you see a butterfly?
- What does God get when you taste a chocolate covered strawberry?

When you begin to look for what God gets, life can become one big worship service! When this happens, you don't do anything differently in life, you simply do it with an entirely new perspective!

A Prayer To The Lord

Lord, we do not live for ourselves, we live for
Your greatest glory.
Bless us with all things or give us nothing.
Honor us before others or bring us low.
Put us to doing or appoint us to suffer.
Give us work or keep us unemployed.
Send us overseas or keep us home.
Shatter any dream that is not yours.
We freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to Your pleasure and disposal.
All we ask is that we delight in Your glory!

Lecture 3 The Story Of The Bible

Corrie Ten Boom's Story

Corrie lived to radiate her Father's glory. How do we give God the greatest glory He could ever have? Reaching all nations will bring our Father the greatest glory He could ever have.

God gets greater glory when He unites that which is diverse. When all diversity is united, God will get the greatest glory He could ever

have. This is why He wants to redeem people from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation.

Genesis 1:28 points in this direction. A language breaks up over time as it spreads around the world. God intended to create diversity, to bring it back together in harmony, for His greatest glory.

Genesis 11:1-4 - A Three-Fold Problem: “Protect” and “Divide and Conquer”

As man was trying to somehow gain equality with God, He saw their tremendous pride welling up. That pride could separate mankind from God. God also saw that with one lie, Satan could mislead all of mankind with one wrong story. On top of all that, He saw their disobedience to not scatter to the ends of the earth.

To protect mankind, break that pride, and create diversity, He took their one language and divided it into many different languages. This kept Him from having to judge them as He did with the flood. This also separated them into distinct people groups, enabling Him to reach out to them at a later point in time. All of this was an act of mercy, rather than judgment.

Genesis 12:1-3 - "The Great Commission"

God's covenant to Abraham is recognized as having two equal parts. The "Top Line" of the Covenant is the fact that God wants to bless Abraham. With that comes a "Bottom Line" responsibility: Abraham is to reach out to all the peoples on the face of the earth. The term *peoples* refers to distinct ethnic groups, groups of people who call "us-us and them-them." Because God used the word *all*, what we have here in Genesis is the beginning of a Great Commission theme.

Never are the blessings solely for us. We are to be channels through which the blessings flow, not buckets keeping them for ourselves.

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Ezekiel 5:5 - "The Promised Land"

The Promised Land was a land of milk and honey; this dealt with the Top Line of the Covenant. There was also a Bottom Line responsibility. The Promised Land was a strategic piece of property where major trading routes existed. This offered the Israelites an opportunity to be witnessing to Gentiles.

Exodus 19:6 - The Priesthood!

In light of God's "bottom line" desire to see all the nations worship Him, God called all of the Israelites to be priests to the nations! This demonstrates two priesthoods: first, the Levites to the Israelites; and second, all Israelites to the nations!

Multiple Bottom Line Passages

Below are some of the many Old Testament passages in which the "allness factor" is emphasized:

1 Chronicles 16:24 - "Declare his glory among all nations...among all peoples."

Psalms 67:1-2,7 - "...may your ways be known on earth, your salvation among all nations."

Psalms 72:11, 17 - "...all kings will bow down to Him..."

2 Kings 19:17-19 - "...so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you..."

Isaiah 25:6-8 - "...for all peoples..."

Isaiah 61:11 - "...so the Lord will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations."

Jeremiah 3:17 - "...all nations...will honor the Lord."

Daniel 7:13,14 - "...men of every language worshipped Him."

Haggai 2:7 - "...the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory..."

Zechariah 8:23 - "...ten men from all languages and nations..."

Malachi 1:11 - "My name will be great among the nations..."

Luke 24:45-48 - "The Seminar"

Here is Jesus with His disciples breaking the Old Testament down into two simple themes: the Top Line and the Bottom Line. Jesus probably reviewed The Great Commission in Genesis 12:1-3 rather than first giving it in Matthew 28:18-20, since His disciples (in their later writings) referred to that passage as the foundation for reaching all nations (Acts 3:25, Galatians 3:8, Hebrews 6:13).

Matthew 28:18-20 - "The Great Commission"

Here, Jesus is asking us to establish a church in every distinct ethnic group on the face of the earth!

Revelation 5:9-10 - "The Finale"

Here, in a picture of the future, we find that the Lamb is worshiped because He has redeemed people from every tongue, tribe, and nation. What He set out to do in Genesis 12, He pulls off in Revelation 5:9, allowing us to read our Bible as one book.

Matthew 24:14 - "The End will Come"

This shows the significance of the story of the Bible. God will reach all nations before the end comes, so He will not have broken a promise to Abraham (not be called a liar for all eternity) and so He will receive glory from all nations (greatest glory).

Lecture 4 Discovering the Other Half of Your Bible!

The "Top Line" + the "Bottom Line" = God's Promise to Abraham

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This means the “Top Line” and the “Bottom Line” can have three relationships to each other:

1. The Top Line can be greater than the Bottom Line, meaning God had a higher priority to bless Israel than to bless the nations;
2. The Top Line can be less than The Bottom Line, meaning God's commitment to reach the nations is greater than His love for Israel (which is not a realistic option); or
3. The Top Line can equal The Bottom Line, meaning God's love for Israel equals His love for the nations.

In light of Scripture, relationships #1 and #3 are the only viable options.

Deuteronomy 7:6, 18:4,5 - "Out of All Peoples"

In Deuteronomy 7:6, it seems that The Top Line would be greater than the Bottom Line since God chose Israel *out of all* peoples on the face of the earth.

Yet in Deuteronomy 18:5, we find that God chose the Levites *out of all* of the tribes. His love for the Levite tribe was equal to His love for each of the other eleven tribes. He simply had a special purpose for the Levite tribe.

Applying that same principle to Deuteronomy 7:6, God did not necessarily have a greater love for Israel; He had a specific purpose for Israel. This is what made them special. Yet His love was equal for all nations.

— Bottom Line Lessons That Are Frequently Missed In The Bible —

Daniel 6:25-27 - "Daniel in the Lion's Den"

The lesson most people learn from Daniel in the lion's den is that God will take care of us in times of trouble. This is true, but it is only *half* the story. King Darius, after seeing that

Daniel was saved by his God, wrote a message to *all the nations* on the face of the earth saying "Check out the God of Daniel."

The Bottom Line lesson is that God can use your faithfulness to influence internationals, who will in turn influence other internationals.

Exodus 12:37 - "Ten Plagues in Egypt"

God was redeeming His people out of the land of Egypt, but He also brought many Egyptians with them. This was because every one of the plagues that God brought about dealt with one of the gods of the Egyptians. As the Egyptians saw the power of the true God, they decided to worship Him instead of their gods, even to the point of following Him into the desert.

The Bottom Line lesson is that major events in the world may be God's way of drawing people's attention to Himself. Therefore, we should be praying through the current events of this world.

Deuteronomy 4:5-6 - "The Law"

The Law was written so that as we obey it we will be blessed. So, we find in Deuteronomy that people from other nationalities should notice our obedience to the Law and also desire the resultant blessings—the Bottom Line lesson.

1 Kings 10:23-24 - "Solomon and His Riches"

Solomon was blessed more than any other man on the earth. This is the Top Line. With all that wisdom, the whole earth sought his wisdom. He certainly did some one-on-one evangelism as he held his "international wisdom seminars."

The Bottom Line lesson is that God has blessed us in America so that we can attract internationals from all over the earth and begin

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reaching them with the Good News of the Gospel.

— **Did Jesus Think The Top Line was greater than the Bottom Line?** —

Isaiah 49:6 - "Jesus' Job Description"

Through the prophet Isaiah, God says that the Messiah will be reaching out to Gentiles as well as Jews.

Matthew 15:21-28 - "The Test"

Jesus did not answer the woman because He wanted to test His disciples to see if they had learned the lesson He had just taught them in Capernaum. Because they respond with a self-centered answer, Jesus sarcastically plays out their theology for the next 30 seconds. To prove His point, He misquotes the Abrahamic Covenant. After proving His point, He then turns and heals the woman.

"The Bookshelf Analogy"

Many Christians view Christianity as a "bookshelf" with lots of areas to become involved in. Usually, missions is only one small, thin paperback among the "giants." But more appropriately, the shelf which holds all the books up should be seen as God's heart for all nations.

Christianity can be compared to dinner at a Mexican restaurant. We have enjoyed the blessings from God so much (the chips and salsa), that when it comes to meeting with God (the main meal), we're *not hungry for God*, because we're *satisfied with His blessings*.

God will curse our blessings if we do not honor his name. (Malachi 2:2)

Because of this, most Christians view their life, energy, gifts, talents, ministries, etc. as an "end in and of themselves." They should rather be seen as a "means" to the end of seeing all nations worship the Lord.

"The Mercator Maps"

Mercator was a German who drew the world to the scale that we usually see in maps commonly used in America today. This is very much a "Top Line is greater than Bottom Line" map. It was created for a specific purpose, to guide ships over the oceans.

If you look closely you will see that the further north from the equator, the greater the distance between an equal amount of latitude in the lines. He also shoved the whole map "downward" so that the equator is not in the middle of the map as one would presume, but two-thirds down the map.

This is a good map to be used by maritime navigators for setting their compasses. However, Mercator's map has been used widely beyond its intended purpose.

The Peter's Projection Map is designed so that equal land mass ratios are given to all geographical areas. As a result of this, you can more accurately compare land sizes against each other. Both maps are incorrect because it is physically impossible to take a spherical object and put it on a flat sheet of paper!

Lecture 5 **What Do I Do Now?**

Nonverbal Communication

Almost everything in the world around us is telling us that life is about us! This was the same problem in Jeremiah's time. God told him to "uproot" nations. In order to get at the root of our people-centered theology, we have to pull the plant up by its root. This will not be easy. We will have to "fight" in order to keep our vision for God's glory strong.

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In order to produce a “100—fold crop” we will need to learn to *think differently* and *act differently*.

There is a balance to Cat and Dog Theology. But if one is to be “weightier” than the other, make it Dog Theology!

A nalytical Thinking

Analysis #1:

“We want you to know that we are believing God for miracles in this church.”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Analysis #2

“Honey, all I know is that God loves you, and He wants you happy. And if you’re just not happy, then just get out. It’s not God’s best plan, but He wants you happy.”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Analysis #3

“We want to see Jesus lifted up so that all men might know He is the way to Heaven.”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Analysis #4

“We’re making room for you!”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Analysis #5

“Lord, we want to make other churches famous in this community. We literally want to trust You for the supernatural in their churches.”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Analysis #6

“Honey, you’re never going to get any friends if you keep acting this way.”

Circle which one you feel applies:

Cat / Cat—Dog / Dog—Cat / Dog

Write a prayer for a Prodigal Son (put down key words).

The Church is violating Deuteronomy 4:2 by leaving out the glory of God in its messages.

Global Glory

Dogs constantly are asking the question “How are we doing in world evangelization?” since they know God’s greatest glory comes when we reach all nations.

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The most accurate data from the World Christian Encyclopedia would say 10.7% are actual Christians, 22.3% are others who claim to be Christian, 40.1% are within reach of the church, and 26.9% are totally unreached.

Somewhere between 1.5 - 2 billion people on earth never hear a clear presentation of the gospel. (Few of these are in the U.S. The majority are in Asia.)

Ninety-eight percent of all foreign missionaries go to where a church already exists; 99.99% of all full-time Christian workers go to where there already is a church.

The average Christian tithes 2.6% of their income to charitable causes. (Non-Christians tithe 2.7% on average.)

The average giving each week per church member to all Christians causes is \$2.75. The average giving per church member to missions is 12 cents.

Annual church embezzlements by top custodians exceed the entire cost of all foreign missions worldwide.

In the United States, for every dollar put into the plate, 95 cents of that dollar gets spent right back here in the U.S. Four cents goes to where a church already exists, and less than a penny goes to where there is no church.

The Good News

There are 600 evangelical churches for every one unreached people group, making the Great Commission very, very doable!

155,000 people become believers every day.

- 54,000 from Africa
- 46,000 from Latin America
- 43,000 from Asia
- 12,000 from N. America

Globally, 60,000 new churches are planted every year.

200 million pray daily for world revival.

Fifty percent of all world evangelization has been done in the past 200 years. 50% of that since World War II and 50% of that since 1980. God is on the move like never before.

For Further Study

We encourage you to follow up this seminar/study by visiting our affiliate website at www.OurJourneyWithHim.com. The lessons contained on that website are designed to help you embark on an exciting journey with God that we hope will permanently change your life and bring Him maximum glory.

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NOTE: This is a revised copy of these notes. If you find any errors or corrections to be made, please send them to us at the above address! Thank You.