

Life Over Under With God
[from sermon series *Immanuel* – Part 2]

December 4, 2016

Pastor Craig Watson Kalamazoo Free Methodist Church

“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.” ~ Matthew 1:23 [NIV]

God has always wanted us to live life _____ Him.

- He has promised to be _____ us.
 - Deuteronomy 31:7-9
 - Matthew 28:20
- He has told us _____ we can be with Him.
- Micah 6:6-8
- John 15:4-8

Living _____ God involves having a truly personal _____ with Him.

- It is *not* all about keeping _____.
- It is *not* about gaining _____.
- It is about _____ God.

Trying To Live Life _____ God

- The _____ removal of God
- Replacing relationship with _____
 - John 5:37-40
- The ease of _____ over “Family”
 - Exodus 17:1-7

Trying To Live Life _____ God

- Spiritual “_____” [i.e., “If I follow the rules, then God will...”]
 - John 9:1-3
 - Matthew 19:23-25
- Leads to _____, fear and even _____
 - Matthew 23:1-15

Our tendencies to live life over God or under God serve only to draw us _____ from God!

- In both cases, God merely becomes a _____ to an _____.

God’s intention for us is seen in the One Jesus promised to send.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.”
~ John 14:16 [KJV]

Parakletos = Comforter, Advocate, Helper, Counselor...

Literally *One who comes alongside of!*

- In the beginning, God _____ with Adam and Eve in the Garden
- Jesus _____ with His disciples in Galilee
- God the Holy Spirit now _____ with abides in us

The key word is... _____!

- We are called to live _____ God, not over or under Him in the ways we have describe.

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Trying To Live Life _____ God

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God has always wanted us to live life with Him.

- He has promised to be with us.
 - Deuteronomy 31:7-9
 - Matthew 28:20
- He has told us how we can be with Him.
- Micah 6:6-8
- John 15:4-8

Living with God involves having a truly personal relationship with Him.

- It is *not* all about keeping rules.
It is *not* about gaining control.
- It is about being with God.

Trying To Live Life Over God

- The cultural removal of God
- Replacing relationship with principles
 - John 5:37-40
- The ease of formula over “Family”
 - Exodus 17:1-7

Trying To Live Life Under God

- Spiritual “ Quid Pro Quo ” [i.e., “If I follow the rules, then God will...”]
 - John 9:1-3
 - Matthew 19:23-25
- Leads to legalism, fear and even hypocrisy
 - Matthew 23:1-15

Our tendencies to live life over God or under God serve only to draw us away from God!

- In both cases, God merely becomes a means to an end.

God’s intention for us is seen in the One Jesus promised to send.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.”
~ John 14:16 [KJV]

Parakletos = *Comforter, Advocate, Helper, Counselor...*

Literally *One who comes alongside of!*

- In the beginning, God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden
- Jesus walked with His disciples in Galilee
- God the Holy Spirit now walks with abides in us

The key word is... WITH!

- We are called to live with God, not over or under Him in the ways we have describe.