



Stew Pot: June

Stew On This...

Webster's definition of crazy is "obsessed", "being out of the ordinary", "full of cracks or flaws".

Kind of sounds like God, right? I mean, c'mon... **God is nuts!** For one, He's totally obsessed with us. Two, He asks us to live in a way *completely* out of the ordinary. And three, He loves us soooooo much - no matter what. (That's just messed up!)

I mean, have you *read* Psalm 139 lately?

¹ O LORD, you have examined my heart

and know everything about me. (*what?!?!?*)

² You know when I sit down or stand up.

You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. (*seriously?*)

³ You see me when I travel

and when I rest at home.

You know everything I do. (*gulp.*)

⁴ You know what I am going to say

even before I say it, LORD. (*and yet you don't stop me, sometimes, Lord!*)

⁵ You go before me and follow me.

You place your hand of blessing on my head. (*thanks for that, by the way*)

Crazy, right? What's crazier is - He asks us to **be just as insane as Him!** To love others and love Him - with all our heart, soul, and mind! (Matthew 22:37-39) So - if we've got this right - He watches over us and cares about us every moment of every day but then thinks He can "command" us to treat others just as measly as we think we would like to be treated??? (see Luke 6:31) **That's just bonkers!**

And who are these "others" He's referring to that we're supposed to "love"? Friends? Family? People I can't stand? Folks I pass on the street and don't even know? Apparently, according to Ephesians 2:18, all of the above. "Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us."

Francis Chan wrote a whole book about this "Crazy Love" of God. In it he writes something pretty bold: "**You have to stop loving and pursuing Christ in order to sin**". Whoa! Now, I'm not one to actively *want* to sin. But, if I'm being honest, I'm not one who actively pursues God and shows the love of Christ all the time, either. And for someone to say that it's gotta be one way or the other, well, that's just nuts, too!

But it makes me think - *am* I as loving as I can be? *Am* I pursuing Christ and His children in the same ways He pursues me? Or am I just not crazy enough to live up to **the awesomely ridiculous calling** of my Lord?

If you're not teetering **on the edge of lunacy** just yet either, we encourage you to just try to **respond in SOME way**. Pray about it and talk to God. **Come to worship** on a Sunday morning. **Give** just a little of your riches to someone with less. **Serve** here in our great home of Cincinnati. Try to **be a witness** - for just a minute a day - to the fact that you are a child of God - and **CRAZY is your middle name!**

- The Stewardship Team