

“Jesus and me” is poor theology

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Dr. Kenneth Bakken a pastor and physician made this statement at a continuing education event I attended entitled Healing and Wholeness. Theology simply means the study of God. Why would Dr. Bakken make such a statement? This statement seems to strike at the core of that which we are striving for, a close intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Why would a physician, especially a pastor, be against someone having a loving, living, meaningful relationship with their Lord and savior? Actually he is not. He makes the statement as a corrective or as a reminder. No matter how close and intimate and wonderful our relationship with Jesus is, it can never be true, if it does not include others. Imagine someone who belongs to a large family claiming to have a great relationship with their parents apart from their siblings. Would you ever tell a close friend, *I really think a lot of you but I hate your kids. Let's just pretend they don't exist*. Unfortunately way too many family members try to do and claim that. What pain and disappointment it must cause for their parents. Sometimes we have to live with an incomplete family because some members can't seem to get along with other family members. When we start thinking you and me against the world Lord; I wonder if it would be like saying to our parents, you and me against the rest of the family.

Just think for a minute about the prayer Jesus taught us. *Our* Father who art in heaven... Give *us* this day *our* daily bread and forgive *us* our trespasses as *we* forgive those who trespass against *us*. And deliver *us* from evil..... For fun let's look at it this way: *My* Father who art in heaven... Give *me* this day *my* daily bread and forgive *me* my trespasses as *I* forgive those who trespass against *me*. And deliver *me* from evil..... Along side the prayer Jesus gave us, it seems so self centered. I think that is Dr. Bakken's point. Even in our relationship with him, Jesus never calls us to self-centeredness.

How about Jesus and me and God's whole family.

God bless you (all) this week.

Pastor Arthur Sharot