

The Lowedown

A monthly newsletter from the life and ministry of Dave & Jennifer Lowe

April 2006

Adjusting our Image of God

When I first moved to the Sacramento area 8 years ago, I remember listening a lot to the local talk radio station.

Tom Sullivan is a popular talk radio personality who has a show in the afternoon that is a mix of politics, financial news, etc. Even though I had never met or seen Tom Sullivan, my mind began formulating a mental image of what he looked like.

It's hard to say for sure what factors were contributing to the image that was being created in my mind, but I suppose the tone of his voice, his last name, among other things caused me to think that he would look a certain way.

Then one day, I was watching a morning news show and Tom Sullivan came on to give a financial report. To my amazement, he looked nothing like I had imagined. I recognized the voice but everything else looked different than I had imagined.

I was at a crossroads. I could choose to believe the image that my mind had conceived regarding the physical appearance of Tom Sullivan, or I could adjust my mental image to fall more in line with the *real* appearance of Tom Sullivan.

Students today (all people really) are involved in a similar situation. As I talk to students on campus, I find that there are numerous views and ideas concerning who God is, what He is like (if He exists at all) and how we can relate to Him.

Most people formulate their views and understanding of God from factors such as their upbringing, their own personal experiences and their own preferences. It's not surprising then that most people's

view of God is one of a being who doesn't disapprove of them in any way and who accepts them no matter what they believe or do.

The question is this: is this the *real* God, or an imagined God that we've created in our mind?

2000 years ago, a man who claimed to be God appeared on the scene. Nobody had ever seen God so how could we know for sure it was really God?

As Jesus spoke, through His words and His deeds, the voice was unmistakable. He "sounded" like God. He had authority that only God has, He claimed to forgive sins, which only God can do, and He even allowed His followers to worship Him, something that would have been blasphemous were He not God.

It's true that there are a gazillion different images of God in the minds of people out there. But one man, Jesus, has appeared in the flesh, on TV so to speak, in order to show us what God is really like.

And now we have a choice. We can continue to follow the "radio" image of God that we've formulated in our own mind, which could be considered idolatry, or we can adjust our image of God to match what He is really like as He's revealed Himself to us.

The task for us on campus is not only to show students the real picture of God, but to get them to see that their picture is wrong and they need to substitute the real God (Jesus) for their imagined God. This is not an easy task. **Please pray with us and for us—that students would recognize that their image of God does not line up with the real picture that the Bible portrays.**

LOWEDOWN NEWSBRIEFS

Hurricane Katrina Relief

60 students from UC Davis joined 1300 students from across the nation to spend their spring break in New Orleans participating in the Katrina relief effort. Students worked in groups and helped to gut homes that were damaged by the hurricane.

Students commented on how the devastation was beyond what they had imagined and how their perspective on life had changed through their interaction with people who had lost everything. Because our group consisted of some non-Christians, many of our students had opportunities to engage in significant conversations with unbelievers. I've heard many stories of unbelievers whose attitude towards Christians has been changed because of their opportunity to work side by side with students from our group.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Fellowship Dinner on May 6

On Saturday, May 6th, we'll be hosting our 6th annual Fellowship Dinner for the Sacramento Area Campus Crusade ministry. This event has traditionally been a very successful event in helping people in our community understand what God is doing on local campuses and for raising a significant portion of our operating budget. **Please pray for this event, that God would use it to encourage and bless those who attend and that many new people from the community would attend.**

If you would like to attend this event, or want more information, please call me.