**What If?**

**Introduction**

1. Comparing ourselves with ourselves and others is hardly ever a good idea.

* **2 Corinthians 10:12** – Paul addressing the problem of the false apostles who boasted in themselves.
* **It is unwise to compare ourselves to a standard arbitrarily conjured by another’s actions**.

1. However, if we compare ourselves to God, and His standard, we will have no doubt about what we need to work on.

* It is His word that will judge us – **John 12:48**.
* We must imitate the Divine – **1 Corinthians 11:1**

1. What if God were like you in any way?
2. God Gave Like You Give?

* **John 3:16**
  + God gave the best He could give. His gift was sincere.
  + Jesus was His ***“only begotten.”***
  + ***The Grace of God does not merely treat a symptom, it is the panacea for the disease – Romans 5:20-21***
    - **God’s gift was sufficient, but the free gift had great cost. (cf. 2 Corinthians 8:8-9)**
* **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**
  + The Macedonians are an excellent example of giving.
    - ***The gave, and were willing to give, beyond their ability!***
    - ***They were in need of assistance (cf. 9:1-5 – Corinth was to send aid to Macedonia) but were still desiring to give!***
  + We must be willing, and liberal in our giving.
  + Just as Christ gave Himself for us. We are to give our entire selves to God **(cf. Romans 12:1**).
    - **Our bodies as a living sacrifice denotes continual sacrifice. Every day we rise to take another breath is an obligation to live for God.**

1. God Forgave Like You Forgive?

* **Matthew 6:14-15**
  + How God forgives us is directly related to how we forgive others.
  + **Sometimes we tend to act as if trespasses against us personally are more severe than any others.**
    - ***In doing so we fail to remember our own against God, and OUR need for forgiveness.***
    - **If this is the rout we take we will not be forgiven by our God.**
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* **Ephesians 4:32**
  + We are to remember how God forgave us when we are wronged by others.

1. God Behaved Like You Behave?

* **1 Peter 1:13-16**
  + If God did the things we did, would He be considered holy?
    - **He is completely unique in His purity. God is expected to be perfect in every way, and He is.**
    - **He must be followed in this capacity.**
  + We are to strive for the holiness of God.
* **2:9-12**
  + Are we proclaiming the praises of God with our words and deeds?
  + **We are the people/children of God. Because we are related to Him, we must act like Him.**
  + Do others see God in us?
    - ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”* (Galatians 2:20)**

1. God Warned Like You Warn?

* **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**
  + God listed sins and warned about the outcome of participating in them.
  + **There is no room for political correctness when God is addressing sin. Why is there ever room for such when we are the speakers?**
    - **God listing sins is not cruel, but loving and kind. He wants us to know what to avoid.**
* **Galatians 6:7-8**
  + He revealed unto us the plain fundamentals about our deeds in the flesh.
  + **He did not just warn that sins were bad, but gave the reason why, and the consequences for participating.**
  + ***Do we balk at the expectation to warn men of the path they are leading?***
* **2 Peter 3:8-13**
  + He has been clear about Christ’s second coming and what it will entail.
  + He has also been clear about our necessary preparation for this day.
  + Do we warn others in this degree?
  + **“If there was a place like hell, we would be warning people about it every place we went.” (Is that true for us?)**

**Conclusion**

1. If you do not compare yourself by the right standard you will fail.
2. God has given us the way, we must follow it.
3. Are you striving for holiness?