

**OUR GOD IS INFINITE  
YET ALSO INTIMATE**  
*By John Gagliardi*



Over the past few weeks, I have been reading a series of summarised books on new business and marketing techniques, incorporating all the newest trends and fads. Many years ago I used to lecture at universities in Australia on subjects like “administrative behaviour and control” and the like, and the only common thread I have found between the books then and the books now is the amazing talent these writers have for making the simplest concepts sound complex and convoluted.

Having said that, what I have found in browsing through all the latest theories and models, is a rather sobering common denominator – a total concentration on “globalisation” in all its forms – integration, aggregation, conglomeration, amalgamation, assimilation - all the “-ations” you could think of. And all thanks to that seemingly omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent invader, the World Wide Web.

All those “omni’s” are usually applied to God, but I used the terms consciously, because there really is a new “god” out there in the world, and you can only come into “his” presence with the correct incantation - the letters “wwwdot”. This new god, “wwwdot” has evangelised business and government worldwide, and increasingly we see takeovers and mega-mergers that are truly global in scale.

If you listen and read the words of all the latest business and marketing gurus, you can forget the much-heralded “one world government”, and start expecting a “one-world corporation.” One of the books I read actually used the term, “the new world order of business”, and another described the modern corporation as increasingly a “collection of interconnecting processes”.

The aim is to blur all boundaries, integrate suppliers, customers and – believe it or not – competitors into some all-encompassing e-monstrosity. Merger-mania has created juggernauts like AOL-Time-Warner, with an immense amount of power and influence worldwide.

And as we see these seemingly unstoppable trends developing, leading ultimately to monolithic structures of previously unthinkable proportions, what room does that leave for you and me – the individual? For us – the Kingdom business professionals – the good news is that OUR God does not have “www” before His name, and He is always there ready and willing to talk personally with us.

Our God is the Almighty God, the Creator of the World, and He is a personal God. He cares about you and me. He may have made the world in six days, but He also knows how many hairs we have on our heads. (Matthew 10: 30), and talks to us privately and intimately in His “still small voice”. (1 Kings 19: 12)

While in many places He addresses nations, tribes and families, at the heart of it all He is most interested in an intimate and trusting relationship with each and every believer individually – you and me. A God who says, “As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66: 13) is not a God who is impersonal and passive. God’s power, while *infinite*, is also *intimate*.

One advantage of the older King James Version, if you still read it, is that it makes plural and singular clear in its usage of the old personal pronouns. “Thee and “Thou” are singular, while “You” and “Ye” are plural. “Cast *thy* burdens upon the Lord, and He shall sustain *thee*.” (Psalm 55: 22 KJV). “The eternal God is *thy* refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” (Deuteronomy 33: 27 KJV)

For Christians, any doubts about whether God is personal, are forever removed through the personhood of Jesus Christ – who, while God, became one of us, and lived among us. The Bible says He had to be made like His brethren (us) in all ways (Hebrews 2: 17) and was “in all points tempted, as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4: 15)

In every sense of the word, Jesus is a person with a personality – and He relates to us as a person, expecting us to get to know Him, and not just to get to know about Him. Theologian J. I. Packer wrote: “What are we made for? To know God.”

When Jesus talks to some of His closest disciples in John 14, you can hear the emotion, the disappointment, almost the catch in His voice as He says: “If you had known Me, you would have known the Father also ...Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?... Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? (John 14: 7, 9, and 10)

God the Father, the Ancient of Days, has chosen to reveal Himself to us, in the person of Jesus Christ, through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - “up close and personal” for those of us who choose to seek His face.

We have to ask Him to reveal Himself to us, and then be prepared to spend time getting to know Him. Prayer is just talking and listening to God – and that is what He wants from us more than anything else, our intimate, trusting fellowship.

It's not rocket science! God wants to fellowship with us, to have "sweet communion". As long as we're prepared to put in the time, talking to Him, reading His Word, and listening to Him, our personal relationship with Him will grow and mature.

So many weighty tomes and mighty volumes have been written about prayer and seeking God's presence, elevating it to some sort of arcane science with a plethora of "never fail" techniques and formulae. Yet Jesus simply says to us: "Come to Me, all of you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11: 29 and 29)

J. I. Packer, in "Knowing God", puts it very well: "When the New Testament tells us that Jesus is risen, one of the things it means is that the victim of Calvary is now, so to speak, loose and at large, so that any man, any where, can enjoy the same kind of relationship with Him as the disciples had in the days of His flesh."

So, my fellow Kingdom business professionals, if like me you sometimes look around you, and wonder what on earth is going on, then just turn off CNN, drop the Wall Street Journal, and tune in to the mind of the One who both started it, and will also finish it. Paul says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2: 5)

In that great infinite mind, there is no worry or confusion, only a sure and certain confidence that no matter how ugly it looks out there, God has it under control. Paul, a great survivor of many adversities, had this to say: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8: 28)

Believe God's Word, and know that if you love God, and are working faithfully in your calling as a "marketplace minister" - a Kingdom business professional - then it's all going to work out just fine for you, as you walk by faith and not by sight. (1 Corinthians 5: 7) Listen to the words of Jesus Himself, the "author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12: 2), speaking right at the end of the Bible, and let the "peace that passes all understanding" fill your heart and mind:

*"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." (Revelation 22: 12 and 13).*