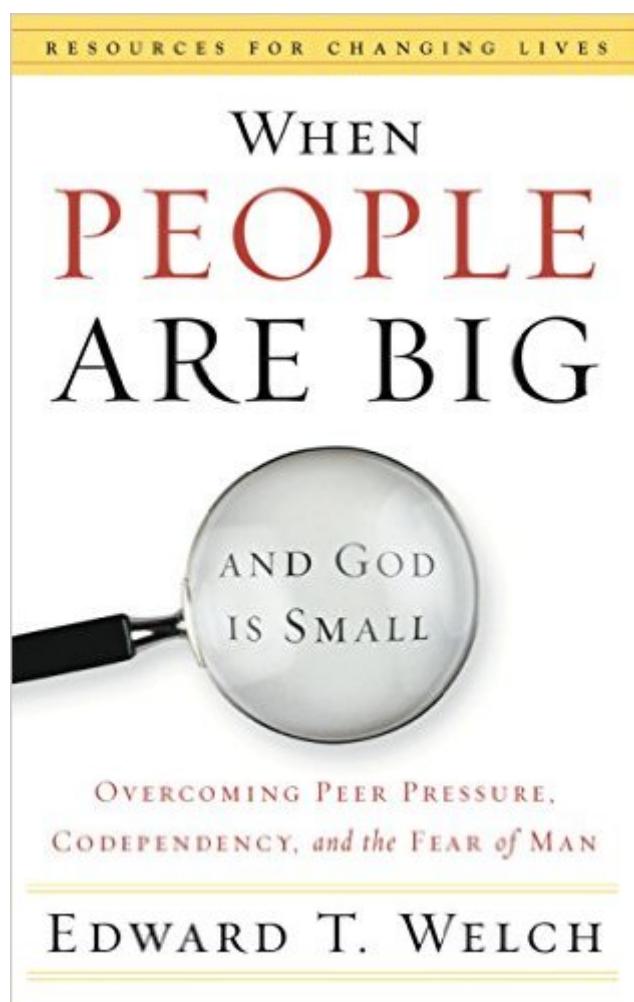


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When People Are Big And God Is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, And The Fear Of Man (Resources For Changing Lives)



Synopsis

Overly concerned about what people think of you? Welch uncovers the spiritual dimension of people-pleasing and points the way through a true knowledge of God, ourselves, and others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'll have to admit, I was a little leery of this book from the title - peer pressure, codependency - come on, another Christian psycho-babble book? But I read it since a friend was reading it and I'll admit - I was wrong. *When People Are Big* is an outstanding book that has something to say about the self-centered psychology of Freud and Maslow - it's all focused on the wrong thing: man. Welch, himself a Ph.D. recipient in counseling psychology chooses to focus on God's Word as the source of truth and understanding regarding the nature of man. His basic concept is that man is created to bring glory to God and in saying this notes that God has designed us with certain "needs" or "desires" that are to be fulfilled by God Himself. The problem arises, according to Welch, when we replace the proverbial God-shaped vacuum in our lives with temporal things of this world that are not only unable to satisfy our longings, but in fact prohibit God from being able to! As man turns to self for "actualization," he finds that his highest purpose doesn't really supply meaning or significance. Only in a proper relationship with God through the sanctifying work of Christ on the cross can man truly understand his true nature and true self. Ultimately, Welch argues, the problem with man is low esteem for his Creator. If we truly lived before an Audience of One, Welch believes that many of our daily "problems" would be solved with a proper perspective - we would see

ourselves in a proper light and we would see that we are not the source of that light, but created to be the reflectors of it to others.

Do you fear people? Do you control your actions based on what others have done or may do to you, or may think of you? Do you respond either in terror (major or minor) or great affection? If you answered yes, you're an idolater. "Our problem is that we need [others] (for ourselves) more than we love them (for the glory of God)." (p. 19) In this book about the consequences of big people and a small God, there are answers. Because the fear of man doesn't manifest itself in the same way for everyone, Welch writes about the different symptoms we may experience. Among them, a push for self-esteem, shame, compromise, neediness, worldliness, and a feelings-oriented worldview. But, as promised, there are answers. Or, rather, there is an Answer. The point of counseling philosophy - secular or sacred - is to offer a diagnostic system of redemption. "Here's your problem...here's how the problem can be resolved/fixed/cured/healed...Please go and live in happiness now." What Welch offers is not a system of redemption, but rather our Redeemer. "If you have ever walked about giant redwoods, you will never be overwhelmed by the size of a dogwood tree. Or if you have been through a hurricane, a spring rain is nothing to fear. If you have been in the presence of the almighty God, everything that once controlled you suddenly has less power." (119) The answer? Know God, and grow in the fear of Him. As we see God for who He really is, we will see ourselves (and other people) for who we all are: "someone completely dependent on Him." "Self-serving needs are not meant to be satisfied; they are meant to be put to death...We love not because people have psychological deficits; we love because God first loved us. The image of God in us is not about psychological need..."

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