The Universe

October 15, 2010

Read: Colossians 1:15-17; Psalm 19:1‐6; Psalm 8:3‐5

Facts about the Universe:

* Distances are measured in light years, or the distance light travels (at 186,000 miles per second) in one earth-year (roughly 6 trillion miles)
* The closest star to our solar system is just over 4 light years away
* Our Milky Way galaxy is about 100,000 light years in diameter and about 1,000 light years thick. It has approximately 400 billion stars.
* There are estimated to be about 100 billion such galaxies in the universe. The nearest galaxy to ours is the Andromeda galaxy, which is 2.6 million light years away!

Think, for a moment, about the vastness of the Universe.

1. How much star gazing do you do? What role do the celestial objects have in God’s creation? How do the stars and planets declare the glory of God. What do they tell us about God?
2. Why do we like to think of themselves as the center of the universe? How often do you ask, “What is man that You are mindful of him?” Do you think yourself being “crowned with honor and glory?”
3. What did you sense as you think about the vastness of the universe? Why is it healthy for us to consider how small we really are? How does it affect you to know that God created you and cares for you in spite of your smallness?
4. Copernicus was the first to propose that the universe did not revolve around us earthlings. Which of the following are true of you? “*You might need a Copernican shift if…*”
   1. You rarely turn a conversation from yourself.
   2. You have difficulty yielding your opinions, desires, and expectations when someone disagrees with you.
   3. You have trouble following God given authority.
   4. You are critical, judgmental, and distant from those different from you.
   5. You get bored easily when entertainers are unavailable.
   6. You come to church for you can “get out of it.”
   7. You obsess over your outward appearance or intelligence.
   8. Yourself worth rises or falls on what others think of you.
   9. You are not content with what God has provided.
   10. You find it easy to spend money on yourself but have trouble giving to the needs of others or the kingdom of God.
   11. You can’t discipline your children out of fear they might not like you.
   12. You question God's control when you experience sickness, crisis, or discomfort.

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Psalm 19:1‐6

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.

Psalm 8:3‐5

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Study from Harvest Bible Chapel Granger "Christ at the Core" series.