***iPod. iGod.***

***Music and Mercy On-Demand***

Ask anyone in media communications today … we’re neck-deep in a seismic upheaval in both content and delivery systems. For decades media breakthroughs were as rare as U-Dub football winning streaks. Now, media evolution is a raging revolution. For example…

Nick Lacy recalls the crystal set….then “floor models-on-‘roids” by Philco, RCA Victor, Crosley, Silvertone…then table models, art deco portables, and what we thought then were “tiny” transistors.

Consumers coveted more control over their musical fare because, as Durante might say, “Everybody’s a program director!! So on came portable, 45 rpm record players, cassette and CD players.

Next, Apple’s cash calf, the iPod. From just playing songs, it added a camera, podcasts (audio or video, Web-delivered for playback on *your* time), TV, talking books, slideshows, calendar, contact file, stopwatch – all in a light, thin package – not a piano-sized radio that travels in a U-Haul.

ALL the “new media” “comfort food” you crave, at your thumbtips, *when* you want it, the *way* you want it. Ahhhhhh, total control – instant gratification. iPod sates any infotainment “need” 24/7.

Question: **What are some of our basic, human “needs?” Describe which ones have or haven’t been met for you over the years. (DISCUSSION)**

# “What The World Needs Now….”

In 1943 Abraham Maslow published his *Hierarchy of* Needs, ranging from the basics to our loftiest ones. Short of Letterman’s Top Ten, they are: physical (air, food, water, etc.), safety, loving relationships, self-respect, personal fulfillment and spiritual.

In *WHY YOU DO WHAT YOU DO* veteran executive coach to CEO’s, Bobb Biehl, ID’s eight primal needs. Let’s see if God speaks to them.

1. To be loved unconditionally. **Let’s read John 3:16-17 (p. 791) and Romans 8:35-39 (p. 842).**
2. To be significant. **Let’s read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (p. 860).**
3. To be admired. **Following God’s “Hall of Fame” in ch. 11, let’s read Hebrews 12:1-2 (p. 895).**
4. To be recognized as a human being. **Let’s read David’s Psalm 139:1-18 (p. 467).**
5. To be appreciated. **Let’s read Philippians 1:3-8 (p. 872) and 2 Timothy 4:7-8 (p. 886).**
6. To be secure. **Let’s read David’s prayer in Psalm 16:5-9 (from the Good News translation below), Hebrews 13:5-6 (p. 896) and Philippians 4:10-11 and 19 (p. 874).**

**16:5 – “You, LORD, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. 6 How wonderful are your gifts to me; how good they are! 7 I praise the LORD, because he guides me, and in the night my conscience warns me. 8 I am always aware of the LORD's presence; he is near, and nothing can shake me. 9 And so I am thankful and glad, and I feel completely secure.”**

1. To be respected. **Here’s 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (p. 849).**
2. To be accepted. **Let’s read Ephesians1:3-14 (Good News translation).**

**3 “Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! For in our union with Christ he has blessed us by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.**

**4 Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be his through our union with Christ, so that we would be holy and without fault before him.**

**Because of his love 5 God had already decided that through Jesus Christ he would make us his children---this was his pleasure and purpose. 6 Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear Son! 7 For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God, 8 which he gave to us in such large measure!**

**In all wisdom and insight 9 God did what he had purposed, and made known to us the secret plan he had already decided to complete by means of Christ. 10 This plan, which God will complete when the time is right, is to bring all creation together, everything in heaven and on earth, with Christ as head. 11 All things are done according to God's plan and decision; and God chose us to be his own people in union with Christ because of his own purpose, based on what he had decided from the very beginning.**

**12 Let us, then, who were the first to hope in Christ, praise God's glory! 13 And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised. 14 The Spirit is the guarantee that we shall receive what God has promised his people, and this assures us that God will give complete freedom to those who are** **his. Let us praise his glory!”**

# “All You Need Is Love”

“What does *God* say I need?” **It’s in Isaiah 55:6-9 (p. 553).**

**What does Isaiah mean by “Seek GOD while he's here to be found; pray to him while he's close at hand?”(DISCUSSION)**

Some of our pals have recently stepped into eternity. It pays to be ready. The Bible says only a personal link with your Maker will suffice. Not Nordy’s, Bible knowledge, church, religious rituals, wealth, a moral life, anything. All good stuff, but what we sinners sorely *need* is a *Savior* (Romans 3:23 and 6:23; 1 Timothy 2:1-6).

Jesus asks, **“What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?”** (Matthew 16:26)

Due to Christ’s taking ALL our sins to the cross, He paid in full our sin debt. No need to hack our way into heaven; we have the PIN! It’s G-R-A-C-E. **“It’s by God's grace that you’ve been saved through faith. It’s not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so no one can boast about it.” (Ephesians 2:8)**

God is no iPod. We don’t create *His* playlist. We take Him as is, not as we want to program Him. He comes with no On/Off switch. He wants to be “live” 24/7, not TiVo’d. Jesus is no iGod. He’s THE God.

If He’s not yet *your* God, tell Him, even now, “God, I’ve got game alright, but I *really* need YOU. So I now put my trust in You. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me, for giving me a clean slate and a seat at Your table. As much as I know how to be, I am all Yours. Amen.”

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