

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Understanding Father – Part I

OR

Putting the Pieces Together

Learning about God is like putting together the pieces of a giant jig-saw puzzle...one that has no beginning and no end. So we start with a random piece and build from there.

Sometimes, we find ourselves staring at a piece for the longest time, wanting that piece to fit, but the picture is not far enough along yet; and we have to put that piece aside for awhile and wait for the puzzle to take more shape...trusting that, since the piece was in the "box," it will fit, eventually.

Gradually, we see more and more of the picture, and the pieces become easier and easier to fit together, But God is so big, that it is hard to imagine what the final picture will look like; and every time we think we can make a pretty fair guess, we find one more piece that adds a completely new dimension to the shape.

It takes work and patience to build this kind of puzzle.

The pieces don't go together all by themselves.

But the harder the puzzle, the more satisfaction with each added piece.

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Sometimes, we find that we have to walk away for awhile (leaving what we have already done laid out on a table) in order to come back and look at things from a new perspective; but, while we are gone, the picture remains unchanged, incomplete and nagging at us...until we sit down and go to work again.

Sometimes, we get so frustrated that we scrap the whole project...crumbling the pieces and dumping them back in the box. But puzzles are curious things. They have a way of "getting to you"...even when they are hidden away on a shelf. It may take years, but one day, there it is again...pulling at some inner core to give it one more try.

And as we come back (whether to start anew or continue where we left off), we find that not only is our picture growing, but so are we, in patience and understanding.

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