



EPHESIANS

>IN<

GETTING PERSONAL

1. The Holy Spirit Makes God Personal

v30

You View God as a Vending Machine



You View God as a Good Luck Charm



You View God as a Distant Father



You View God as a Drill Sergeant



You View God as a Judge



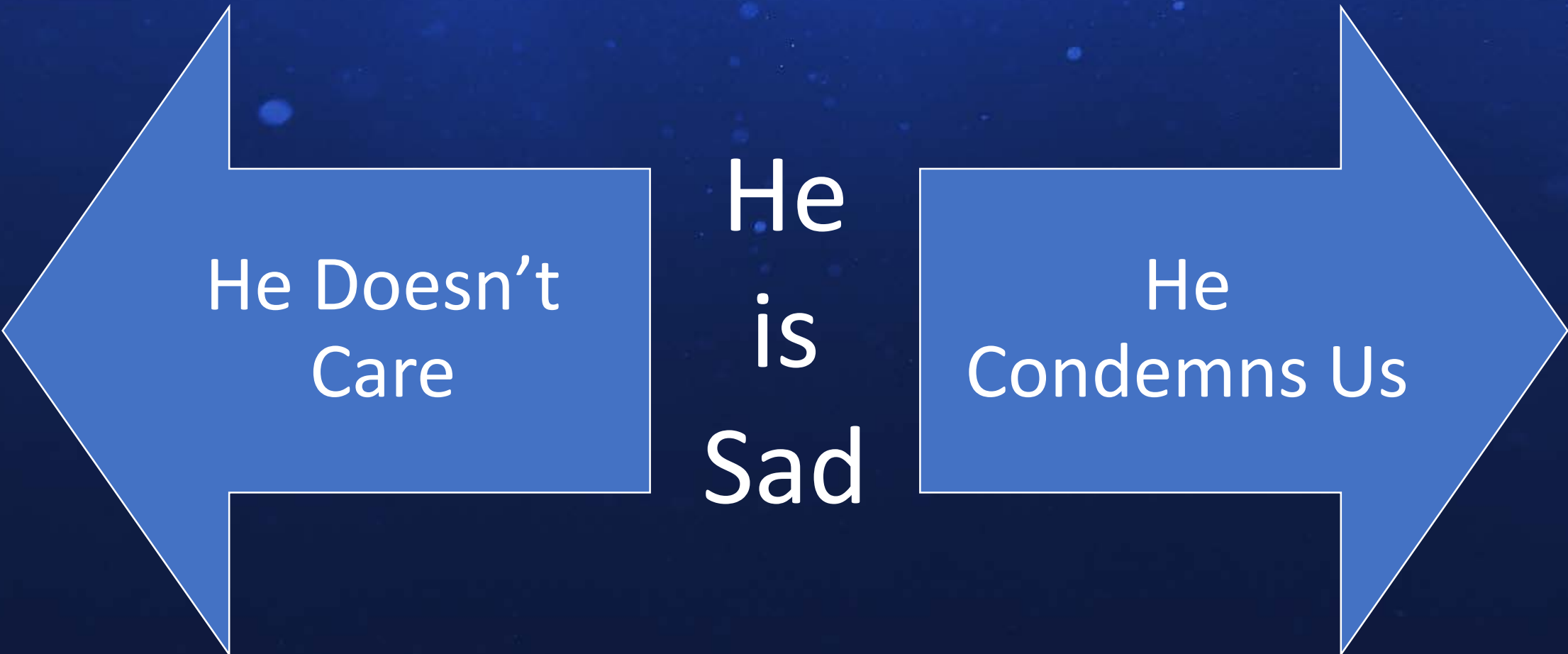
Eugene Peterson

The too often disregarded scriptural rule is that we cannot be made to believe. Belief by its very nature requires assent and participation, trust and commitment. When we believe we are at our most personal and intimate with another, with the Other. Belief cannot be forced. If we are bullied or seduced or manipulated to believe, we do not end up believing, we end up intimidated or raped or used. And we are less, not more.

2. Don't Make God Sad

v30

When We Sin ...



He Doesn't
Care

He
is
Sad

He
Condemns Us

3. What Makes God Sad

v31

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you
were sealed for the day of redemption.

Stott

So the 'sealing' and the 'redemption' refer respectively to the beginning and the end of the salvation process.

And in between these two termini we are to grow in Christlikeness and to take care not to grieve the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit is a sensitive Spirit. He hates sin, discord and falsehood, and shrinks away from them. Therefore, if we wish to avoid hurting him, we shall shrink from them too. Every Spirit-filled believer desires to bring him pleasure, not pain.