

# GOD-SHAPED in 2014

## *What Does It Mean to be Father-Defined?*

- A. *Ephesians 1:1-14* — the opening of Paul's letter to the Ephesians.
- B. Notice some of those key words: chose, predestined, purpose, will, wisdom, insight, plan, counsel, sealed, promised, guarantee.
- C. "Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God" (*Heb 3:4*).

### I. What Does It Mean to be Father-Defined?

A. *Define* can be used in a variety of different ways:

- 1. To state or set forth the \_\_\_\_\_ of.
- 2. To explain or identify the \_\_\_\_\_ or essential qualities of.
- 3. To determine or fix the \_\_\_\_\_ or extent of.

B. "There is an ultimate definer and I'm not him."

- 1. Job recognized it — *Job 12:7-10*.
- 2. David built his life on it — *Psalms 139:13-16*.
- 3. Paul boldly proclaimed it — *Acts 17:22-29*.

C. He wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ for us; we were \_\_\_\_\_ for him — *Isa 45:18; 46:3-4; 43:6-7*.

D. Which is why Isaiah confesses what he does — *Isa 64:8*.

### II. THE QUESTION: "Am I Allowing Him to be the Ultimate Definer?"

- A. Of objective \_\_\_\_\_ — truth, righteousness, law, wisdom, justice, goodness, worthiness.
- B. Of my \_\_\_\_\_ — origin, inherent significance, meaning, purpose, future.
- C. Of my \_\_\_\_\_ life — the nature of manhood and womanhood, marriage, parenthood, childhood.
- D. Of my \_\_\_\_\_ responsibilities — time, money, resources, possessions.
- E. Of my \_\_\_\_\_ — to share the gospel, to serve others, to encourage, to discipline.
- F. Of my individual \_\_\_\_\_ — to be holy, to be steadfast, to abound in good works, to worship.

### Conclusion:

- A. The ultimate aim of it all? "*The praise of his glory*" (*Eph 1:14*).
- B. What better perspective than *Psalms 138:8*? God is willing to do his part. What about you?