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Non-Christians Are God's Masterpieces – Discussion Guide

Based on the book SOUL REVOLUTION, by John Burke, published by Zondervan.

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last Overflow Show.

PASSAGE: Read John 1:1-11. Discuss possible perspectives that verses 3, 10, and 11 might reveal about non-believers and God.

If you have time, glance at 2 Peter 3:9 in the same context.

Section 2

Go to www.OverflowToday.com and listen to the 5-minute podcast titled Non-Christians Are God's Masterpieces.

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

Were you comfortable with Burke's contention that Ephesians 2:10 includes non-Christians or do you think that is debatable? Theologians do debate this point.

If one were to not agree that Ephesians 2:10 includes non-Christians, would the fact that every human is a creation of God cause similar motivation as Burke's view?

How many of the following groups of people, in your view, might the Ephesians 2:10 masterpiece reference include:

- 1) Non-Christians who will never be Christians
- 2) Non-Christians who will eventually become Christians
- 3) Already-Christians.

At minimum, then, are some non-Christians definitely God's masterpieces? In what sense?

As you view non-Christians in a macro fashion, is it valid to say that there are many of God's masterpieces in the crowds and groups of people that you interact with daily?

Share whether or not you find this perspective motivating and why.

What might be ways to communicate to a non-Christian friend this concept and how do you think it might affect him?

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days?

One suggestion (if needed):

As a group, choose a day this week that you will call "Masterpiece Day." Remind each other by email the night before. For that day, set your watch to beep on the hour every hour as a reminder. Spend that day viewing all non-believers you encounter as God's Rembrandts. (Or at least, view all non-believers you encounter as God's creations, some of which are Gods' future Rembrandts to be revealed.

Email each other during that day or that evening with any remarks on how that mindset is affecting your connection to non-Christians in your life.

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