Dear Open Door Family,

Every now and then in watching sports or even other settings I have heard the phrase "IN YOUR FACE". That was an "in your face" slam dunk - or that was an "in you face" comment. As I was thinking about what it really means I searched for a definition and found the following: *IN YOUR FACE- is to say or do something in a bold, direct, aggressive, confrontational, assertive, or daring way.* An IN YOUR FACE MOMENT has an aggressive, assertive, or daring sense to it. But when it comes to God should we ever do things or say things "in His face"? Most of us would firmly say NO. But in our actual practice are we doing or saying things with that IN YOUR FACE kind of attitude towards God? Let's look at these verses together.

Psalms 139:1-4 *(NIV) O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. [2] You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. [3] You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. [4] Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD.*

David makes it clear in this Psalm that God has knowledge of EVERYTHING we do. That includes any physical action, includes all our thoughts, and ALL our ways. He goes on to say we cannot hide from God anywhere. I came across a new Latin phrase this week "*Coram Deo* - Before the Face of God." It means that everything we do say or think is done in God's very presence. We tend to forget that because God does not have a physical visual presence that we can see. But it is clear from the Bible that He is present. Let's go back to the question I asked earlier. Are we doing or saying things with that "in your face" kind of attitude towards God? Any time that we choose disobedience rather than obedience we are saying "in your face" to God since we are doing, saying, or thinking all of it *Coram Deo* - Before the Face of God. As we begin to realize ALL we do is done in God's presence perhaps we can make the last two verses of this Psalm our prayer.

Psalms 139:23-24 *(NIV) Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. [24] See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

PRAYER: Lord, help me to be more and more aware that ALL that I do, say, and think or even imagine is done *Coram Deo* - Before the Face of God - in Your presence. Please Lord, keep me from an IN YOUR FACE attitude toward You. May I live each moment ever mindful of the fact that I am living *Coram Deo* - Before the Face of God.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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