

Loving God in a Personal Way

God, through Jesus, has uniquely expressed a “personal” aspect of himself. Even though Buddha, Confucius, and even Mohamed had good insights about God, it is not the same. Also, before Christ, apart from humanity’s vertical and impersonal perception of God, many cultures had a polytheistic view of him. Therefore, God in his quest to finally disclose his personal expression, first disclosed himself as being separate from and not contained within objects on earth or in the sky-Pantheism/Panentheism (Deut. 6: 4). Simultaneously, he disclosed himself as vertical through the commandment found in Deuteronomy 6: 5. For this very reason, the commandment to love God with all ones heart, soul and strength was given to serve its function in promoting the fact that God is one and above all. Deuteronomy 6: 5 was a great commandment, for it guided humanity’s steps towards God’s next and final expression. (Rom. 7: 12) (Gal. 3: 19, 23- 25 & 4: 4, 5)

However, loving God, as prescribed by Moses through this inconclusive commandment from Deut: 6: 5, has lead to too many impersonal behaviors between peoples. For example, the status-quo between the clergy and laity, whom are the major roots and nurturers of society’s psyche, has produce fruits similar to the unfair status-quo of the secular world. It makes people think they are better vertically than others; and it is hard for one who is above or below another to relate equally, which also includes God. Also, promulgating Deuteronomy 6: 5, as the highest objective for Humanity, has produced lack of communication and Love. People have no time left for engaging personally with their community, because they are so preoccupied with pleasing Yahweh/God/Allah through their vertical and impersonal forms of religion.

In contrast, Jesus was so busy with his community personally; the New Testament authors never bothered to write much on his vertical associations with God; except for his times with God in the morning, and that was by himself. (Matt. 6: 6 & 14: 23) Furthermore, Jesus’ behavior was shaped by the horizontal and personal concept of God and his horizontal vision of heaven on earth (Matt. 6: 9-11), which he stated as (and this is our interpretation in modernized terms): “Seek first the Kingdom of Heaven/Community and its Righteousness/Love, and the healthy community will seek and take care of you; and you’ll receive twice as much of cars, homes, land, children and educations in this life, which will conclude with eternal life. (Matt. 6: 33 & 19: 29) (Mark 10: 29, 30) (Luke 18: 29, 30)

In addition, God through Jesus expresses his true character as being horizontal, approachable and not as egotistical as mankind has perceived him to be in the past, and as some still do today. (Heb. 4: 16) Expressing God to be horizontal, as a person, may sound disrespectful, but in fact, it discloses God to be more glorious and loving than disclosing him by the vertical approach. It may also appear to place God second and hard for some to accept, but in actuality, it places God first. When Jesus stated, “But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first (Matt. 19: 30)” he was also applying it to himself and to God the Father! In a great example, Jesus did place God second and last when he washed the Apostle’s feet. But, in that way God was seen as a greater first, and a Glorious King/God who knows that in order to conform his creation to his ways, he must deny himself (through Jesus) as a servant and last, treating humanity as being first in a compelling example! (St. John 5: 19 & 13:1-17) (2 Cor. 5: 14) Also, notice the continuous eternal spin between Matt. 19: 30 and Matt. 20: 16. Jesus reversed Matt. 19: 30 and stated it differently in Matt. 20: 16: “So the last will be first, and the first will be last”. (St. Luke. 9: 23 & 14: 7- 11)

Moreover, in God’s plan to provide humanity with a complete, final perception of God, he descended and expressed himself as a humble person (Matt. 1: 23), with a “New” command. Deut. 6: 5 becomes a personal command and conclusive when transformed into ‘love each other “As I Have” loved you.’ (St. John 13: 34) This ends the vertical and impersonal perception. (Rom. 10: 4) (Col. 2: 14) And, any one who has, and will see Christ, will see the father. (St. John 14: 9, 10, 20) (Col. 1: 19 & 2: 9) This is how God relates to man now, or else he would continue to communicate vertically and impersonally through a bright light, earth quakes, or a loud voice and heavenly rumblings. (Ex. 19: 16) (Heb. 12: 18, 19)

In conclusion, God wants us to reach him through **people**, for he is a person. (Luke 19: 8, 9) To affect God in Heaven or on Earth (Rev. 21: 3), one must fulfill Jesus’ statement, “whatever you do for one of the least of them; you have done it unto me”. (Matt. 25: 40) And, this will fulfill the commandment to love God/Deut. 6: 5; for one must “Love God” through all persons in a personal way! (1 John 4: 21) Greatest1command.com