

Multi-dimensional God

I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God but Me. I will strengthen you, though you do not know Me, so that all may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is no one but Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make success and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. – Isaiah 45:5-7 HCSB

There is a lot of talk in the modern American church about God being Love. Obviously, the Bible agrees¹, but the problem begins when we think that is ALL He is. Do you love only? Do you hate completely? Is any person truly that simple?

All human psychology is based on the complex interactions of multiple factors². We instinctively know that certain physiological imperatives drive us almost as much as our subconscious impulses and conscious schemas.

We ascribe complexity to ourselves, yet simplicity to a Person Who has lived so much longer than we³ that to address Him as 'Attiq Yomin (the Ancient One)⁴ is almost ludicrous!

It's as though we have looked at Sunday school pictures of a long-haired, white, blue-eyed Jesus for so long that we have begun to think He actually is that one-dimensional!

God is love. But God also hates,⁵ and commands us to hate - evil.⁶

God rejoices over the salvation of even a single sinner.⁷ But He is also enraged by injustice⁸ and stubborn, willful sin.⁹

God is patient.¹⁰ But that patience can come to an end. If we stubbornly turn our backs on him, become stiff-necked and refuse to listen, He will turn us over to the Destroyer.¹¹

He wants nothing but goodness and life for us,¹² but He will make us sick and even kill us if He thinks that's what's best for us.¹³

Jesus came as a Suffering Servant¹⁴ but that role is now over. God has exalted His Son above all others¹⁵ and any day now, He will return as King of kings and Lord of lords.¹⁶

God declares that His Lordship is demonstrated in the fact that He creates both light and darkness, success and disaster.¹⁷ Therefore, a correct understanding of God's sovereignty leads us to believe that even the calamities of life can be laid at God's feet¹⁸ because nothing happens that He does not allow.¹⁹

God is not some one-dimensional, pastel picture hanging on a wall. He is loving and fearsome, patient and curt, comforting and crushing. We do not need to defend Him. He does not need "spin doctors." We should not slant our testimony – even in what we think is His favor.²⁰ We must choose to love Him as He is,²¹ in all His glorious complexity, or not to love Him at all.

¹ Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; Romans 5:5, 8; Ephesians 5:2; 1 John 4:16

² Jeremiah 17:9

³ Deuteronomy 32:40; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Nehemiah 9:5; Job 36:26; Psalm 90:1-2; 93:2; Isaiah 44:6

⁴ Daniel 7:21-22

⁵ Isaiah 61:8; Jeremiah 44:4; Zechariah 8:17; Revelation 2:6, 15

⁶ Amos 5:15

⁷ Luke 15:7

⁸ Isaiah 61:8;

⁹ John 3:36; Romans 1:18; 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 2:16

¹⁰ Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 103:8-10; Isaiah 48:9; Ezekiel 20:17; Joel 2:13

¹¹ Nehemiah 9:28-31; Proverbs 1:24-27; 29:1; Matthew 24:48-51

¹² John 10:10

¹³ 1 Corinthians 5:5; 11:27-30

¹⁴ Philippians 2:7-8

¹⁵ Philippians 2:9-11

¹⁶ Revelation 19:11-16

¹⁷ Isaiah 31:2 cp 47:10-11

¹⁸ Amos 3:6

¹⁹ Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6

²⁰ Job 13:7-12

²¹ Romans 1:21