

A PERSONAL GOD VS. A CORPORATE GOD

Heb. 8:10-12

1. GOD DESIRES TO BE A PERSONAL GOD TO US.

1. **God= personal covenant with us.**

1. *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." (Heb. 8:10).*
2. *"And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 8:11-12).*

2. **Relationship of God as Father to sons and daughters.** *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." (II Cor. 6:17-18).*

2. WHAT IS A PERSONAL GOD?

1. **A God who cares and is always there.**

1. (1 Pet 5:7 KJV) Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
2. (Luke 12:32 KJV) Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
3. (Luke 12:24 KJV) Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? (Luke 12:25 KJV) And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? (Luke 12:26 KJV) If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? (Luke 12:27 KJV) Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (Luke 12:28 KJV) If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? (Luke 12:29 KJV) And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. (Luke 12:30 KJV) For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. (Luke 12:31 KJV) But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. ***A God who gives personal attention to everyone who calls upon His name.***
 1. (Rom 10:13 KJV) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
 2. (Isa 65:24 KJV) And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.
 3. ***A God we can call our very own.***
 1. (Jer 30:22 KJV) And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.
 2. (2 Cor 6:18 KJV) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
 4. ***A God who never takes a vacation nor goes on strike.*** (1 Ki 18:27 KJV) And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.
 5. ***A God we can talk to and communicate with on a personal basis.***
 6. ***A God we can take our problems and needs to and believe that He understands.***
 7. ***A God that we can know intimately and He knows us.***
 1. God had intimate fellowship with Adam and Eve. (Gen 3:8 KJV) And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.
 2. Moses knew God face to face. (Exo 33:11 KJV) And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.
 3. Jesus called us His friend. (John 15:15 KJV) Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.
 4. Jesus stands at the door and knocks. (Rev 3:20 KJV) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
 8. ***If I were the only one on earth, Jesus would have come to die just for me.***
3. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD ON A ONE-TO-ONE BASIS.
1. ***We and we alone are responsible to God.*** (2 Cor 5:10 KJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2. ***There are times that its just God and us.***

1. Individual prayer and meditation. (Mat 6:6 KJV) But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
2. A time to edify ourselves; to build ourselves up personally.
 1. (1 Cor 14:4 KJV) He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.
 2. (Jude 1:20 KJV) But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

4. OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CORPORATE BODY.

1. ***What do we mean by corporate?***

1. Corporate - Pertaining to a united group, as of persons.
2. United or combined into one.

2. ***God's plan for a corporate body.***

1. God's desire to raise up a many-membered body.
2. As the body is one and has many members, so is the Body of Christ.
3. God is not interested in raising up just one individual to carry out His plans and program.
4. The days of the one-man show are over.

5. PLANS VS. PLAN.

1. ***Plans.***

1. God has an individual plan for each of our lives.
2. It is our responsibility to find that plan and to pursue it.
3. This may include who we will marry, how many children we will have, what occupational pursuit we will take, where we will live.
4. This will include how we individually fit into God's overall plan.

2. ***The Plan.***

1. This is the singular plan of God. This is God's overall, total Plan for all mankind.
2. This Plan was instituted before the foundation of the earth.
3. This Plan was implemented by the Lord Jesus Christ and is to be carried out by the Body of Christ.
4. Our purpose in life is to fit this Plan.
5. This Plan is to reconcile creation back to God; to redeem the earth.
6. This Plan is to defeat the works of Satan, and to establish the Kingdom of God.
7. This Plan is universal and cannot be changed.

6. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CORPORATE BODY.
 1. It's not the matter of "you and Jesus got your own thing going."
 2. It's not the matter of you isolating yourself from the Body and being an island unto yourself; shutting the rest of the world out and just finding your own individual peace.
 1. When thou art converted, strengthen your brother.
 2. We spend all our energies trying to just make it ourselves.
 3. Cross over the Jordan and help your brethren (Joshua to the 22 tribes of Israel who received their inheritance on this side of Jordan).
 3. It's not the matter as to how you can survive and just make it yourself.
 4. It's not the matter of just your personal relationship to the Lord.
 5. We have a responsibility to the Body.
 1. We need to learn how to relate and to interact together.
 2. We need to learn how to worship together.
 3. We need to learn how to function together as a Body.
 4. We need to become a well-organized army of God understanding leadership and authority.
 5. We need to learn to function under the government of God.
 6. We need a local church.
 6. It will be through the cooperative efforts of the Body of Christ that the forces of evil will be defeated, and we can all live triumphantly and victoriously in the Kingdom of God.