

IS GOD BIPOLAR?

by Jim Cason



Is God "bi-polar?" Does He have mood swings from one millenia to the next? Have you ever wondered why references to God as Father are practically nonexistent in the Old Testament? Atheists report that the God of the Old Testament is hardly a "fatherly" image, but rather a cruel and ruthless deity. Hopefully, this essay will illuminate God's paternal passion for humanity, even from the beginnings of creation. Sure enough, we can find a reference or two in respect to Him as Father of Israel nationally, however, apart from that, He mostly says, "I will be your God and you will be my people." In contrast, we can find hundreds of references in the New Testament of God as Father. So what gives? Did God get soft in his old age? Did He become tired of being a "meanie" and decide to become a "Dad?"

I think the answer to that question comes in examination of the context and dynamic of fatherhood and sonship. The dynamics seem to come through relationship. Fathers lovingly teach sons and sons lovingly obey fathers. Just think about it. How can a father teach a son he's never known or how can a son obey a father he's never known? God's vision for mankind from creation has always been one of "eternal fatherhood." From the beginning of time God only had one Son and He has always existed with His Father. They nurtured their rolls in perfect relationship. God knew with the creation of Adam that his role as a Father could only exist in and through obedience from His creation. God knew that in giving Adam free choice that Adam ultimately would fail to be that "son," however, he would remain God's beloved creation. Undeterred from His passion for human sons and daughters, God enacted His plan, devised even before Adam was created. God made a covenant with the man Abraham to secure His eternal fatherhood.

Through the lineage of Abraham, God would secure for Himself many eternal sons and daughters. God gave Abraham stewardship over the plan of eternal fatherhood, and God provided oversight protection, and in most cases, severe discipline through judgement of sin. And in so doing, He upheld the Word of His covenant to secure it for each generation of the sons of Abraham throughout the ages. Each generation passed the plan of the eternal fatherhood of God to the next, much like passing a baton in a relay race. In the fullness of time the baton was passed to His beloved and predestined creations, Mary and Joseph, at the birth of the God-man Jesus Christ, the ONLY thus far Son of God. (John 3:16). In His ministry, Jesus revealed to twelve disciples the creator God, who had a plan for His eternal Fatherhood.

Jesus passed the baton to the twelve while He provided that same oversight protection and discipline. In preparation for His death, resurrection and ascension, He told his followers to wait for the promise that the Father's Son would send to them, and we are told by the apostle Paul, that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise and are spiritually reborn as sons through faith and obedience to a heavenly father. (See Ephesians 1:3-5, 11-14; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:10)

Just as was stated in the beginning of this essay, fathers lovingly teach sons, and sons obey fathers. Without this cooperation, fathers to sons and sons to fathers cease to exist. Scripture seems to be clear that there is a prerequisite and necessity of obedience that qualifies sonship. God's passion for us personally as sons and daughters that are eternal, depends on our choice to continue to walk in a way that produces the fruit that comes from obedience.

In apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, we are clued in that every time we walk away from unholy behavior in obedience, or even when we truly repent when we miss it, God sustains or renews His covenant promise to us as eternal Father. Beginning in verse 14, God prophesies through Paul as He creates a medley of paraphrased scripture from Exodus, Leviticus and Ezekiel, while revealing the added truth of His promise of eternal Fatherhood and eternal sonship. (See 2Corinthians 6:14, 16-18)

The church for some two thousand years, I believe, has missed the point. We have focused on Jesus, the work and person of the Holy Spirit, and the commission to evangelize, which we should. However, without taking anything away from either of them, let me just say, thank God for Jesus and the Holy Ghost, but neither would argue that their purpose in coming to us was and is to reveal and point us to the eternal Fatherhood of God. I'd like to just say if I might without offending anyone, that Jesus didn't come to just bring "eternal life." WHAT? Ok, don't get all bunched up! Yes, that was part of the reason why He came. However, primarily, Jesus came to make us eternal sons and daughters with a loving heavenly Father. You can't have eternal sons and daughters if they're dead, spiritually. He had to provide a means of redemption and eternal life to establish His goal of having eternal sons and daughters. That way of redemption, of course, was Jesus. I would say 80% of the "words in red" (Jesus' words in "red letter editions") in the Bible are concerning Jesus speaking, pointing to and describing the Father. I believe we're in the days when the Holy Spirit is shifting the focus of the church to intimacy with the Father heart of God, fulfilling Malachi 4:5-6, *"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse."*

So there you go. God is not schizophrenic. He is not bi-polar. God is not getting soft in His old age by any stretch of the imagination. He is as adamant about judgment on sin as he ever was. That will be fully apparent as we approach the Day of The Lord, but there will be no fear in the hearts of those who are truly sons and daughters. So that's it, God had "Eternal Fatherhood" and "sonship" in His heart all along. Now, we are accountable to partner with Him in seeing this thing through. The early disciples have passed the baton to us revealing that we are adopted into the family of God through Christ, and the Holy Spirit is providing oversight, protection and discipline to uphold the Word of the Fathers covenant, securing it throughout the generations until the return of Christ. Jesus has given us a ministry to the world to declare the truth of reconciliation between human kind and an Eternal, Heavenly Father. No longer is He just a loving creator but He is our Father, whom we can even address as "Daddy." (John 16:26-27; Romans 8:14-15; 2Corinthians 5:17-20)