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Does God Have Feelings?

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Transcribed and edited by David Sielaff, June 2010

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The best place to start is Genesis chapter 1 because there, at the beginning, God explains who we humans are. We are made, according to the Word of God, in the very image of and likeness of God. We are in His image. We are in His likeness. We resemble what God looks like. Conversely, God resembles us. Genesis chapter 1 sets the scene for this matter of “Does God Have Feelings?” Under the inspiration of God Moses wrote:

“And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the seas, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

• *Genesis 1:26–27*

Notice that God said “**male and female.**” Both are created in the image of God. God is both male and female. He is not a hermaphrodite. He is a male, but there is the female part of the God family. We look on earth today and we see one half male and one half female. All the emotions that you have, all of the feelings that you have, all of the feelings and emotions that I have, must be something that God Himself has, because He created all of us in His image, in His likeness. We have the same type of faculties and facilities, the same type of emotions as God the Father has (and as Christ Jesus has). We need to realize that. He is very much like humans. Or, better yet, we are very much like He is. That is important for us to understand.

Do you realize all of us are here for a purpose? We are here to become exactly like God the Father and Christ Jesus. That is why He created us in His image to begin with. Granted, we are flesh. We are not spiritual yet. We are not made up of spiritual substance. We have flesh and we have blood. But we are very much like God the Father in all faculties, in almost every way you can imagine. He is like we are and we are like He is, in the very image and the likeness of God the Father. That includes males and females.

Your Emotions

For God to create men and women with all of our emotions means that He understands clearly the human emotions that we have, simply because He created them. You did not create your human emotions. God created them. You did not create your feelings that you have, no matter what they might be. God created them. Do you know why you are having those emotions and feelings? It is simply because God has the same feelings and the same emotions as you have, because we are all, male or female, created in this image and likeness of Almighty God. That is why He wants us to understand His feelings that He has in regard to us. He created in us certain emotions, certain feelings. Those feelings and emotions are a reflection of God Himself that He has put into us because each one of us happens to be one of His children. You are very important in this universe.

You are important because you happen to be a Son or a Daughter, of the Living God. He created you for a purpose. He created you to be in His image, in His likeness, to have emotions, and feelings, like He has. You are very special in God's eyes because He loves you. He created Christ Jesus for a purpose. He created all of us for a purpose. We are members of His divine family, whether we realize it or not. That is exactly what the Bible says in both Old and New Testaments.

We humans reflect God Himself, the first chapter of Genesis says in the clearest of language. Moses did not mince words or use trick language so you would not understand. He made it as clear as anyone could possibly make it. The family of God is made up of male and female, just like we find here on this earth.

We humans are nothing less than a reflection of God Himself. He is in us, creating Himself over again. The emotions that you have? The feelings that you have? They are nothing more than the very same feelings and emotions that God the Father has and that Jesus Christ has. Indeed, when Christ Jesus Himself came to this earth, He came as the Son of God. We are told by the apostle Paul in the Book of Hebrews that when Jesus Christ entered this world and grew up to be an adult, He came in **“the express image”** of God the Father Himself (Hebrews 1:3). You could not tell the difference between the two. One was the Father and one was the Son, but Jesus Christ was in the express image, in the express type of condition though He was in the flesh at the time, as God the Father Himself.

If you want to know how God the Father would react to any given circumstance, just consider Jesus Christ and note how He reacted to any given circumstance, and you would find God the Father respond in the same fashion. When you look at the life of Jesus Christ on earth, He responded to the environment around Him, to every circumstance that affected Him, to the civilization He lived in, in most ways like you and I would experience those things. Jesus Christ was the Son of the Father but He came into this world as a human being like you and I are. He came into this world with emotions, with feelings; He came into this world like you and I are, but with one exception: He was the express image of the Father Himself.

If you want to know about the emotions or the feelings you have, identify yourself with Jesus Christ, who as a human being and at the same time as the Son of the Living God in the express image of God the Father, shows you and me the very feelings and emotions that God the Father Himself expresses to all that He has created in the universe. He shows this particularly to you and me, who, unlike other of God's creatures, happen to be in His very image, and His very likeness. This is what the apostle Paul said:

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son [that Son is Jesus Christ], whom he has appointed heir of all things [meaning the entirety of this universe], by whom also he made the worlds [eons, plural].”

• *Hebrews 1:1–2*

The **“worlds”** or αἰῶνας, refer to the ages of time throughout history. He created time. Everything dealing with the various ages that the world has gone through up to the present, have been created by and through Jesus Christ, by the express authority of God the Father, who controls the entirety of this universe.

Look at Hebrews 1:3: **“Who ...”** This is speaking about the Son. This is speaking about no ordinary person, but about the Son of the Living God. That Son of the Living God, Jesus Christ, is no more than a representation of you, a representation of me. Male or female, it makes no difference. He was in the express image of the Father, when He came to this earth in the flesh, grew to adulthood, and died on the tree of crucifixion on the Mount of Olives. He was a representative of us to God. He was just exactly like we are. Look at what Paul said, verse 3: **“Who [Christ] being the brightness of his glory** [the very brightness of the Father Himself], **and the express image of his person ...”**

That is most important for us to understand. If Jesus Christ came into this world and He represented the express image of God the Father Himself, and if you read the rest of the New Testament, and if you will read what the apostle Paul said in Romans, Galatians, Corinthians, and particularly Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (the most mature epistles Paul wrote), do you realize that we are also “in Christ”? That we are in the same kind of body that He was in? That God the Father looks upon you and me in the exact way that He did His own Son? His own Son was in the express image of the Father in every way that you can think about. That is what Paul is trying to say here in Hebrews 1:3.

“Who being the brightness of his glory [God’s glory], **and the express image ...”** It is just like carving a statue made of stone. But this man Jesus Christ was not made of stone. He was a human being like you and I are. Yet He was in the Father’s exact express image. Notice that adjective that precedes **“image.”** It just was not simply an image of God, it was the EXPRESS image of God, down to the smallest detail. Jesus Christ was exactly like God the Father.

All you and I have to do, if we want to know how God expressed His emotions, His feelings, would be to look at the life of Jesus Christ. That life was nothing more than a reflection of our own lives, because He was a human being just like you and I are. He had problems that you and I have. He had difficulties that you and I have. He had ups and downs of life that you and I have. He had negative as well as the positive aspects of life. At times He was happy and joyful. At a wedding feast, having good wine and everything that goes with the feast, He was enjoying Himself.

At other times He was sad. The shortest verse in the King James Version, in the entire Bible, expresses something of Jesus Christ that most people ought to know about. He was not only a happy person. Yes, He was a person with complete and utter optimism. He was a person who had everything going for Him because He knew that He was fulfilling a job for God the Father. The shortest verse in the Bible says: **“Jesus wept”** (John 11:35).

He had emotion. He had feelings like you have. How many times have you wept? We men are not supposed to do that, but Jesus Christ did. I have done so a few times in my life. I do not know about you, but **“Jesus wept,”** John 11:35. That expresses a feeling, an emotion. It is something that He was trying to show, not only to the Father, but to all of us. If Jesus wept we have the right to weep also. That is because nothing is absolutely perfect on this earth, with one exception. God is in charge.

He is the One who shall bring it to pass so all of us will rejoice in happiness without the slightest weeping in the future. But **“Jesus wept”** and so do you. We are learning lessons that God wants us to have at this time. He wants us, as His own children, to express the same type of emotions, the same type of feelings that He Himself has.

It is marvelous to think about it. Here is the Father sitting on His throne with all the glory and majesty that you can imagine, and yet He tells you and me as His children, as His son or as His daughter, “Come up to me, put your arms around me, I understand you. I love you. I know the problems you have gone through. I have gone through them myself and I understand them completely. Son or Daughter, I am teaching you something, teaching you how to act like I do. I control this universe, and I am happy and joyful doing it, but I also know that there are feelings involved, deep feelings and emotions. All of you have had to go through some of these things. I want to tell you why,” He says, “because I have gone through them Myself.”

You see, we are truly His children. He is teaching us things. Everything will work out for good in the end. I tell you, the Bible is the most wonderful book that God could ever give to mankind. It tells you the

message of the greatest optimism you could possibly have. It gives you faith. It gives you hope. It gives you comfort. It gives you courage.

It not only gives you all those things, but there is the promise of the resurrection from the dead of all of the loved ones you have ever had in the past. By the way, all the sins that you have committed (you have done plenty of them) and I have too, they all will be wiped out. All the problems that you ever had, they will be wiped out also. These emotions that we have, these feelings, God has let us know that He will take care of them, through Himself, through Christ Jesus, by Him showing that He loves us with all His heart.

He cares for you. He cares for me. He wants us to have these emotional feelings for the 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, or 100 years that we have here on this earth. He does not subject us to these things inordinately. He only gives us a short time here, but He also gives us happy times. He gives us joyful times. He allows us to have unhappy times. The emotions and feelings of God are very important because you and I are experiencing the very things that God the Father Himself experiences, through the things that His own Son Jesus went through when He came into this world of flesh and blood like you and I, in the express image of the Father. To learn how Jesus Christ reacts to human emotions or feelings, all you need do is read the gospels to discover how He reacted in the past.

On occasion Jesus wept. On other occasions He was joyful. On other occasions He was neither yea nor nay. Jesus went through all of the experiences of human life, and it says in the Book of Hebrews that He learned by the things that He suffered (Hebrews 5:8), more than he learned from things that He rejoiced in. We all need to rejoice. Your final outcome will be rejoicing in the highest level.

You can not imagine the glorious and wonderful and majestic things that God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9). The only way you and I will understand and appreciate the good things that God wants for us, is to be put in a world in which we experience emotions that we do not like — unhappiness, difficulties, depressions, pain, evil around us, even horrors, and the final terror of death, our great enemy. God allows these things to exist so that our emotions can be in tune with His, so our feelings can be in tune with His, so that we can be like He is, so we can understand what it is like to be a member of the family of God that rules this universe. He created it all; He rules it all. He wants us to be happy in it, when we are capable of creating and ruling with Him.

Some time ago a man asked me, “Ernest, if you could just have your greatest wish, what is the greatest wish that you could ask for?” And I said: “Well, that’s quite a question and I don’t want to say something inadvertently here, that would get me into trouble, but I think I know what I want out of life.” And the man said, “Well, what is it?” I said: “You know, the thing I want is to enjoy this universe for the rest of eternity.” And the man looked at me and he said: “You know that’s not a bad answer.”

God as a Parent

To enjoy something means you have to be in conformity to the rules and regulations of that universe established by God. That is why God has given us the Bible. That is why God primarily motivates His principles upon the dictums of love and peace and concern for the other person, and for you. But you know something? Love cannot be expressed properly unless you have the rules and regulations of the Father who created these things. God the Father is a parent. That is what I want you to get from this lecture. God is a parent. He is a Father. He had a Son named Jesus Christ, in His express image. But the first thing you have to realize is that God is a parent. He is your parent. He is my parent. He is the Father. He is like a father that you have on earth, but He is a good father.

Not all fathers on earth are good, but God the Father is good. God loves us as a parent. I have had three children. My wife has had three children. We have grandchildren, too. But you know something? The very fact that we have children allows us to think like God thinks, because He has children, too.

You and I are His children. What He wants us to experience are the very things that He goes through, His feelings, His emotions, and His ways of looking at things, as a parent. He allows us to be parents, and sometimes we say, “I’m not sure I want to be a parent with all the responsibility that goes along with that.” I

agree with you a thousand percent, but we look at those children and we cannot help but rejoice in them — at the end. It will work out at the very end. We know that God shall cause all of our children to be rescued, including ourselves, and we all will be one happy family in the future.

We all go through various experiences in life, but one of the greatest experiences is to be a parent, because you have children and God has children. So He says to us “I will let these children of mine have children of their own so that they can understand how I have to deal with all of you.” He says you are “my children.” All right, now I will give you children. You will have to deal with them like I deal with you. It is a wonderful thing when you think about it. But oh, the responsibility that goes with that, when we think of our children, and the things that we want them to do!

We tell them, “it would please us very much if you could do it this way,” and you know, many times they will turn right around and do the exact opposite of what you want them to do. They still say that they love you, but they go their way. That is the way many children are. Other children are more obedient, that is true, and we are thankful for that. That is the way some of us are in our relationship to God. Some of us are more obedient than others. That is quite true. Do not ask Ernest Martin if he is been obedient all the time to God the Father, because I will tell you something, I admit I have not been. I am not pleased with everything that I have ever done, but I do know my heavenly Father loves me, and He will bring me through. He likes me. He likes you too. Not only does He like you, He loves you with all His heart.

I have not always been perfect in trying to please my heavenly Father or my own father and mother here on earth. I loved my father and mother but I did not always obey everything they said. Sometimes they said to me, “Ernie, why did you do that?” Most of the time I was obedient and they knew that I respected them, and I did so until the day they died. I think both of them understood that their son respected them.

Not all sons do that. I am not priding myself, do not get me wrong. I am trying to say that we have the experience of having children, to teach them, so that we can become more like God the Father, who also has children. His children happen to be you and me, all of us. He wants us to experience dealing with children like He has to deal with children.

The best thing in the world for an obedient child is to do as the father and the mother tells them. That would be nice and wonderful. It seems that is a social obligation. Not only that, it is something wonderful and beautiful, if we find that the children obey the teachings of their father and their mother, especially if the father and mother love them with all their heart.

The father and mother may say “don’t put your hand in the cookie jar.” You want cookies. My goodness how I wanted the cookies when I was a youngster, and I would use every strategy I could think to get in that cookie jar. Finally my mother would spank my hand and tell me “Ernest, I said you can have a cookie, but you cannot have five of them. They are not good for you.” I knew my mother was telling the truth. I knew it, but I wanted to be naughty anyway. What did I do? I still tried to sneak in and do it.

I doubt my parents were pleased with me when I would do things like that. Getting in the cookie jar is innocent compared to some of the things children do these days, or things that you have done, or things that I have done. Getting in a cookie jar is an innocent thing, but there are things that children do that their parents have told them not to, and they go do them anyway. You were not pleased with them, were you? No. What do you want to do?

Adult Children, Mature Children

If they were adults, you cannot take them over your lap any more and spank them. What can you do? God deals with us as mature children, not as young children. It is more difficult to handle adult children. God the Father is in charge of all of us, and we are mature children. Realize that He has feelings like we have feelings. He has emotions like we have emotions. It comes down to this: an obedient child, which I think you and I would want to be in the eyes of the Father, should do all the things that He says to do.

If He says do not the things of the heathen, cut down a tree and put it up (Jeremiah 10:2–4), you know, the Christmas thing, and then you say “I don’t see any harm in that.” That is right; you do not see any harm

in it. I might not see any harm in it either. God says though, do not learn the way of the heathen. Do you want to please your parent, or do you not? Do you see the point?

Some parents think these things are innocent, like the cookie jar situation. They are not innocent when you get down to it, because God does have feelings. He has emotions relative to you. He wants you to do what He says because if you do it the way He says, you will be happier, you will be in conformity to His teachings, His laws, His ways, His will, and everyone will benefit. When you go contrary to them, and you displease Him, go ahead and do so if you want to, but God will be displeased with you, just like you would be displeased with your own children if they do not do the things you would want.

Granted, some of the things that we want may be inordinate at times. Some of us are very strict and maybe too strict. We should not be that way. But most parents if they are God-fearing, if they go by the biblical revelation, will want their children to be happy and joyful. When you tell them “don’t run into the street,” you are not trying to restrict them from playing or having fun. You are trying to keep them from getting killed or maimed, to keep them safe.

That is the proper approach that parents ought to have. If a child disobeys and runs into the street, the parent has a right to spank the child, to say “listen, you shouldn’t do that. Why? Because I don’t want you killed, don’t you understand?” That is the way God the Father is. He gives us all types of teachings to keep us out of trouble if we will just apply them, but many of us do not want to apply His teachings. This is typical of children. We say “This doesn’t make any difference.” Then we just go right ahead and do it. We say, this Halloween stuff is all right for children, or this Easter stuff that we have, or this Christmas stuff. I agree with you 100 percent. It looks perfectly innocent on the surface. The only trouble is ... God says stay away from it. We say, “Oh, it doesn’t make any difference.” You are (or I am) just like a rebellious child who does not want to please the parent. God **“chastens and scourges”** His children (Hebrews 12:6).

Do you know just who you are? You are a prince, or a princess if you are a woman, of the living God of heaven. You are part of the very family of God. Why not act like a prince and a princess you are? Why not try to please your Father in everything that He wants? That is being an obedient child. God the Father will let you do just about anything you please as long as you seek to please Him.

He is not interested in governing your life in a way which will constrain you, so you cannot do as you jolly well please. He wants you to be able to do everything you want to do, within laws and guidelines, which would be helpful and good for not only you, but for society around you. God wants you to enjoy life.

Like I said to the gentleman when he asked, “What would you want to do, Ernest, for the rest of eternity?” I said “Well, I just want to enjoy the universe.” I do not think that is a bad choice. I do want to enjoy it, but the only way I can enjoy it is if I am pleasing my heavenly Father, and my elder brother Jesus Christ. Do you know something? They give me all types of leeway. I can do as I jolly well please on anything I want to do, as long as I abide by the principles they have given me as one of their children. They know that Ernest Martin does not know all the truth. My goodness, I could not create the universe if I wanted to. I would not know where to start. But one of these days I will know. One of these days you will know. I do not know all I need to know at the present time, but God the Father does. That is why I trust in Him as my heavenly Father.

I may be imperfect and He gets mad at me once in awhile (and He has a right to do so when I go contrary to His teachings), but He knows that in my heart I really want to please Him.¹ If you know your own children mean well and they want to please you, you know their foibles and things they do go wrong, it is interesting how you just say “oh my goodness,” and you just love them and forgive them. You do so if you know that their attitude is such that they truly want to do right and they do not want to do wrong.

That is how I feel. That is how most of you feel. That is the way God looks upon us. We are His children. Does God have feelings? The answer is — absolutely. Remember that Jesus Christ was the express

¹ King David is an excellent example for us to consider. David committed horrible sins as King of Israel, including murder, yet he was, as the apostle Paul said in Antioch, a man after God’s own heart who fulfilled God’s will (Acts 13:22). DWS

image of the Father in every way, and in the shortest verse of the Bible, John 11:35, it says: **“Jesus wept.”** That means God the Father also weeps on occasion. God also is a very happy individual. He is joyful. He has feasts. He has wonderful times, but there is also time for weeping. There is time for reflection. There are times when human and Godlike emotions and feelings are made manifest, and we need to know what they are, because we are like God in so many ways. If you look at this matter about Jesus weeping, He wept for a reason, for a purpose. He looked over Jerusalem and He lamented with great sorrow: “if they could only just understand the basic truths of the teaching of Moses,” or the teaching of the Bible, they would relieve themselves of tremendous problems and difficulties now afflicting them. He wept over Jerusalem’s future and He had a right to do so: **“when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it”** (Luke 19:41).

Even to this day is God weeping like Christ did over things that you and I and the world happen to be doing? Yes. Most of us in the world are not obedient children. We ought to be, but we are not. God Himself actually weeps to this very day. It shows He has emotions like we do.

Read Romans 8:14–39. It is very important. That passage shows emotions, the feelings that our heavenly Father possesses, but also those of His own begotten Son. Christ Jesus experienced human life here on this earth for some 30 odd years. He experienced the good and the bad just like you and I do. He was able to be an obedient child of God the Father, even going to the tree of crucifixion to fulfill a plan for all of us.²

It says in the Scripture that God’s Son learned by the things that He suffered (Hebrews 5:8) and not by the things He enjoyed. Most of the learning experiences that I have had in this world that will help me for all eternity have been things that I have suffered, more than the positive things that I have enjoyed. I would rather enjoy things than suffer, but suffering can help you to appreciate the good. That is how God the Father is. He sometimes puts us through chastisements — we might even think “my goodness, this is evil coming from God Himself,” and that might be true (Hebrews 12:6). The point is, He is looking after you as a son and a daughter who He cares for very much, and who He feels is so important that you are right now considered a son and daughter of the Living God.

Go look in the mirror. You are a son or a daughter of God just like Christ Jesus was Himself. He is no more interested in Christ Jesus than He is you. Or better yet, He is no more interested in you than He is in Christ Jesus because the two of you are absolutely linked together. When God sees you, He sees Christ, and when He sees Christ, He sees you. I mean personally, in an emotional way, in a feeling way, which reaches right down to the innermost recesses of His heart.

That is how He looks at it and that is how you should look at it, too. Start at Romans 8:14: **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God ...”** That includes daughters. Yes, if you are led by the Spirit of God, you are a child of the Living God. Now notice “sons.” That means God is your Father. God is your parent. Do you know what we ought to be doing? We ought to be trying to please our parent. If He says “daughter and son, I prefer you do it this way,” do you know what He expects you to do? He does not expect you to argue with Him, and say “well, now, my reasoning is just opposite of yours. I think I ought to go this way.” He said “son and daughter, I prefer, I want, you to go in this direction.” It seems to me that an obedient child, male or female, son or daughter, wanting to please the Father should not even argue with Him, but should say “Okay. I absolutely will do it. I do not know why I am doing it. I do not know why this is the best way. I may not understand it completely, but if you say to do it this way, I will do it your way.”

That is how God the Father expects us to react to His laws, to His ways, or even His suggestions. He would be mighty pleased if you would just do as He says without argument. Do you know who is going to win? God the Father will win. You will win also because you are in conformity to the divine spiritual laws that emanate from God the Father Himself. That is why it says:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, are the sons [or children] of God. For you have not

² Jesus in Gethsemane asked God to accomplish His will another way. Yet He was obedient to His Father (Mark 14:36). DWS

received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, 'Abba, Father.'

• *Romans 8:14–15*

“**Abba, Father**” is an Aramaic term close to the Hebrew. This comes through the Greek, but it means in effect that father is like “dad,” or “daddy,” or “papa.” It is an endearing term which means something very close. You are so close to God that without the slightest feeling of impropriety you can call Him “Dad.” That is how close you are to Him. Most of us look at the majestic power of God. We look at the nobility that He has and the glory that surrounds His person. None of us would think for a moment of calling him “Dad.” But the apostle Paul says you can say “**Abba, Father**” (that is “papa”), if you want to. That is how He loves you and how close you are to Him. You may not think you are close to Him, but that is how He thinks of you. You can say:

“... **Abba, Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ ...**”

• *Romans 8:15–17*

We are not only heirs of God, we are joint-heirs with Christ. Christ not only, under the Father, created the heavens and the earth (Colossians 1:15–17), but He now rules the heavens and the earth. You and I are joint-heirs with Christ, destined to inherit the rulership of the entirety of this universe. That is right, everything in it. That is your inheritance that God has given to you.

We are not to inherit part of the universe, such as you have one galaxy out there and I have another over here, and someone else has another, and so forth. No, you will have it all. All of it is yours in Christ Jesus, because you happen to be a Son or Daughter of the Living God. He is our Father now. He expects us to treat Him as a Father. He wants us to do His will. If He gives even a suggestion, you should obey that suggestion without argument and say “all right, Father, you know best. I’ll do it.”

In your own experience of being a parent (and most of you have been parents) would it be wonderful if you could just say to your children, adults or minors, “You know, I would like this to be done,” and they would automatically say “I will do as you say”? That would be wonderful. That is how God the Father looks on us. He wants us to obey Him because He has feelings and emotions, the same as you and I have. Verse 17:

“**And if children [which we are], then heirs; heirs of God [which we are], and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**”

• *Romans 8:17*

I do not like anyone to suffer. I do not want to suffer. I would give anything for any of you not to suffer. Suffering is something that is not good on the surface. But God in His wisdom allows us to suffer under His authority to teach us lessons. The lessons of suffering that we have gone through in this life will redound to something very beautiful and majestic, something glorious, and something wonderful in the future by the resurrection from the dead. All of the experiences that you have had on this earth (like Christ Himself who suffered all the way to the tree of crucifixion), you and I in the suffering that we do, are also learning disciplines that will aid us tremendously in the future, when the whole universe will be given to us to enjoy and to be responsible for.

That is what God is doing for us. He is trying to teach each of us to be His obedient mature children who will be like He is, who will have His emotions, His feelings, all governed in a way in which we all will rejoice. That is what God wants. That is what the Holy Scripture is all about. The apostle Paul writes:

“**For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. [How wonderful!] **For the earnest expectation of the creature [all creation] waits for the manifestation of the sons [children] of God. For the creature [all creation] was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected****

the same in hope, Because the creature [creation] itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

• *Romans 8:18–21*

We are destined to have a glorious liberty as God’s own children, starting with Christ Jesus as the first-born Son. We are in Him; we are all His children. We even have it now, if you have enough sense to realize it. We are free in Christ (John 8:36). We are in the flesh, the very children of God, if you can just understand it. If you really know who you are, Satan the Devil will not touch you with a ten-foot pole unless God allows him, because God wants you to know who you are, a member of the very ruling family of the universe. That is who you are. It is about time that I, you, and the rest of us, begin to act like it. This is what God is trying to tell us. Grow up! Be mature. Understand who we are.

If there is nothing more that we at ASK, the Associates for Scriptural Knowledge, could do in this life than to let people in this world know who they are, I will have been successful. That is the key to everything. You are a prince of God. You are a princess of God. You are a member of the very family of the Living God. Act like it!

This is what Paul is telling the people he wrote to. That is what he wants you to understand: **“For [because] the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons [or children] of God”** (Romans 8:19). **“For [because] we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now”** (Romans 8:22).

That is part of the suffering. Look around you. Do we not find that the creation made by God, it is groaning? Do we not find that the creation is in travail like a woman in travail to bring forth a son or a daughter? Do we not find that they are in pain together? Of course. God allows that to happen for a purpose. It allows you to build discipline. He is training you in suffering, to be honest with you. You do not have complete suffering. There are respites. There is a holiday coming, a time of joy. But when you sum up this human life, there is a lot of suffering everywhere. Paul goes on to say:

“And not only they [people in the world], but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption [the sonship, the child-ship], to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for [it]? But if we hope for that [what] we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities ...”

• *Romans 8:23–26*

“Our infirmities” means our weaknesses that we have. I have plenty of them. You do too because you are in the same boat I am. We all have infirmities: **“... for we know not what we should pray for as we ought”** (verse 26). Half the time I do not even know what to pray for, because I am not sure of all the details, but God knows. He is looking after me. He is looking after you. He is looking after all of us because we do not know everything, but He does. He loves us as His children.

“For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

• *Romans 8:26*

That Spirit, if you want to know who it is, is identified a bit later: **“It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us”** (Romans 8:34). Christ Jesus is the Spirit that intercedes for us and He intercedes with groanings to the Father, with emotions, with feelings. He sees our problems that we have here on this earth. He is not gone afar off somewhere. He knows we suffer. He knows we have difficulties. He knows we have our times of happiness, too, which He wants us to have. But all is under the control and supervision of our heavenly Father.

He is looking after you with an intensity that you just cannot imagine. You do not even know what to pray for half the time. You better be thankful that God the Father has Christ Jesus next to Him, and you

know what? Christ Jesus knows exactly what you need. Half the time I rely on Him to pray to God the Father to help me out. Paul said that is the way it is.

My heavenly Father knows what I need. Christ Jesus knows what I need. And when I have problems, troubles, and difficulties — which I have from time to time — I know that those problems are all under the supervision of God the Father and Christ Jesus, and He will not allow me to be tried above what I am able (1 Corinthians chapter 10). He will give me and you the strength to be able to endure, because they understand, through their own emotions and feelings what you and I have to go through here. That is one of the main reasons that Jesus Christ came into this world, to be a human being like you and I are, to be able to experience the very things that we go through, so that He can have empathy to us.

“Jesus wept,” remember? He had a right to weep. Do you know something? Jesus rejoices, because at some time in the future all of us will be rejoicing. This whole creation, not only ourselves but the physical domain that we see around us that makes up our universe and our world, will come into the glorious liberty of the children of God. We are all going to be redeemed into something majestic and wonderful.

We will see just how important each of us happens to be. You are important to God. You may not think you are important. Other people may not think you are important, but you are as important to God the Father as Jesus Christ Himself is. I am also. God has feelings. God has emotions. He has groanings. Here is the Spirit of God, who is Christ, coming before God the Father, petitioning Him on your behalf. (Read that in Romans chapter 8.) When you do not even know how to pray, or what to pray for, your heavenly Father is listening to your elder brother who knows exactly what you need. (Also read that in Romans chapter 8.)

This should help you feel secure. It should give you hope. It ought to give you the truth to know who you are, a Son or a Daughter of God. **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”** (Romans 8:28). That includes even the bad things that occur in your life. Do you realize that those bad things, believe it or not, will work out for good in the long run? That is what it says, and you will see it happen. **“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son ...”** (Romans 8:29).

You are predestinated to be in the very image and likeness of no less than Jesus Christ Himself. Pay attention to those words. Ernest Martin did not write those words. They were put there by the apostle Paul under the inspiration of God. You have been predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, to be just like Jesus Christ Himself. When will you begin to believe these words?

If Jesus Christ wept, you have a right to weep. You see the point? Of course, do it in a proper way, understanding that God the Father is in control of all things.

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

• **Romans 8:30**

Every verb in this passage is in the aorist tense in Greek. Let me tell you about the aorist. It denotes a continuing action, a continual existence. You are on your way to glorification. It makes no difference what state you are in at present time, your ultimate destination is glory, glory like the sun shining in full strength.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? [Nobody can be against us.] He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifies. [God makes holy, makes righteous.] Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

• **Romans 8:31–34**

Let me modify this a little. **“... who makes intercession for you!”** That is proper, of course.

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are killed all the

day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded [note this:], that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature [creation, in Greek], shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

• *Romans 8:35–39*

That is marvelous. You have an absolute guarantee that God loves you so much that he shall not allow any of these things, ever, ultimately to overcome you. You will succeed. Why? You are a prince of God. You are a princess of God. Do you think for a moment that God would allow His own children not to be glorious with majesty sometime in the future, or even now? Do you think that He would just shut you off to the side somewhere and say “I don’t need that person any more, they’re junk.” God has no junk. He looks upon you and me very differently. He looks on the whole world this way, if we could just understand it. There is coming a very glorious time. Why? It is because God has feelings.

Does God Really Have Feelings? Does He Care?

The answer is, yes He does. He has feelings just like you and I do. He created in you the very feelings that He has. Jesus wept. Jesus also had joy. Remember the wedding at Cana (John 2:1–12), why He “opened up the bar,” so to speak. They did not have any wine, so fill up the water jugs! They had so much wine probably several went home tipsy that day. I am almost convinced of that. Yes, it was fermented wine, the best they ever tasted. There are times of joy. There are times of sadness (Ecclesiastes chapter 3). We are all in this world together, to learn things. We are His children.

It seems that all that we should do is try to please our heavenly Father. That is all He is asking us to do. In 1 John 5:21 the last thing John wrote in that epistle was, “**Keep yourself from idols.**” If God says to “**flee idolatry,**” like we find in 1 Corinthians 10:14, do you know what we do today? We go into our churches and we see idols in most of them. When he says “**Learn not the way of the heathen**” (Jeremiah 10:2) for our own good, what do we do? We love Christmas. We love all these things “**of the heathen.**” We all know (look in any encyclopedia) it did not come from God’s Word; it comes directly from heathenism. We go exactly opposite from the way He says.

God says the immortality of the soul is a doctrine which is absolutely pernicious, bringing some of the most ridiculous teachings that you can possibly imagine, so that some people even today believe Mary, the mother of Christ, is alive in heaven now, and is supposed to be an intercessor. Mary is in her grave waiting for the resurrection from the dead. Yes, she will be glorified along with all of us, but this doctrine of the immortality of the soul, which the Bible says is completely wrong in every way, you know what 95% of us do? We claim to be the children of God, and then we go and believe exactly the opposite of what He says.

Then the trinity was invented because Satan does not want anyone to get into the family of God. But you are already a member of the family of God (1 John 3:1–2). So why in the world would you want to believe some trinitarian teaching when you are already a member of the family of God yourself? If you would believe the Bible, we would not have all this stuff coming up.

Then we put an image of Zeus with his long hair in most of our churches and on pictures claiming it is Jesus. If the apostles would come back to life and go into churches today, they would ask, “Why do you put this heathen god in here?” Then our churches put up steeples, gargoyle demon images, and things like that. This is nothing but paganism. Do you know what we do? If God, our parent, tells us “I would prefer you to do it this way,” like rebellious children we turn right around and do the opposite of what He says to do.

Your Children

What about you and your children? God has given most of us children. Are you pleased with the way they do things? Some things they do right. Some things they do wrong. Attitude is key. Their attitude toward you is important, as is your attitude toward God. The other day a girl friend called my wife, Ramona,

and asked “how are your children doing?” She answered, “Oh, in various stages of catastrophe.” That is funny, but in many cases that is the way things actually are. Our children are not doing exactly as we wish. But we love them all. God loves us in the way we love our children.

We have to learn to deal with our children who sometimes are rebellious, the way that God deals with us. I do not know why He wants to accept me as His son, but He does. He kind of likes Ernest Martin. Why do I know He does? Simply because He is my Father, and He has told me that He will shape me, work with me, and give me the teaching that I need. One of these days I will be in complete and utter conformity to His way. So will you.

God gives us children here below to teach us how He has to deal with us. Again, go to a mirror and look at yourself. Are you doing the will of God in all points? Are you really pleasing your heavenly Father? Here is what the apostle Paul said to the Athenians in Athens, Greece, when he lectured to them. He looked around and found all types of idols there. He found one particular altar, and on its base Paul saw inscribed **“to the unknown god.”** That gave him a clue how to teach the Athenians, the philosophers at the time.³

“Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill [at the Acropolis], and said, ‘You men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are too superstitious. [He meant they were very religious] For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.’ Whom therefore you ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. [I will tell you about this god, unknown to you, whose monument you built.] God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is the Lord of heaven and earth, dwells not in temples made with hands.”

• Acts 17:22–24

The apostle Paul included the temple at Jerusalem because that also was just a symbol. It was nothing more than a pattern of God’s heavenly abode, His palace in heaven. Paul understood that. Whether the Acropolis in Athens or in any other area of the Roman Empire where there were various temples, structures, and shrines to God, Paul was saying God does not dwell in any temples **“made with hands”**:

“Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needs anything, seeing he gives to all life, and breath, and all things; And has made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before hand, and the bounds of their habitation.”

• Acts 17:25–26

Who is in charge? The apostle Paul says God is in charge. He put you Athenians right here. He put the Romans there. He has put others over here. He put the Russians in Russia. He put the Americans in the United States, if we bring it up to date. He has done all these things. Why has He done this? Go on:

“That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us [He is close]: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’”

• Acts 17:27–28

Paul was quoting a Greek poet who understood that we humans, including the Greeks, were offspring of God, His children. That is what Paul was trying to get over to these philosophers there on Mars’ Hill:

“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device. And the times of this ignorance [making idolatry and such things come into focus] God winked at ...”

• Acts 17:29–30

³ I have been at the very spot where this statement was made by the apostle Paul. Some of you have also, particularly those who went with me on my trips to Israel and the Middle East. ELM

Notice, He may have winked at it in the past, but he goes on to say:

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men every where to repent [change their attitudes]: Because he has appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained [that is Christ Jesus]; whereof he has given assurance unto all men, in that he has raised him [Jesus] from the dead.”

• *Acts 17:30–31*

Paul was saying that God winks at the foibles of mankind when they lack knowledge of Him. They are utterly ignorant and stupid in what they are doing. The time is coming, Paul says, even “**now**,” when God will not wink any longer, because He is giving the truth to mankind. In fact, as we come in to the 21st century, do you know that God has promised that He shall restore the knowledge of His truth to the entirety of this world? He will bring the knowledge of prophecy, the knowledge of doctrine, the knowledge of who He is and what we are, to the full awareness of this world.

Once that knowledge comes from the power of God Himself, He will take off the scales from mankind’s eyes. Read Isaiah chapter 29 starting in verse 9 to the end of the chapter. When mankind then sees just who they are, that we are in actual fact the children of God, and that we should be acting like children of God — like princes and princesses of God — with the fruit of the Holy Spirit being manifested in our lives.

At that time God will no longer wink at these matters such as idolatry afflicting our churches. Most people do not even know what steeples on the top of churches mean. If you read my article “[Deceptions of Satan the Devil](#),” you will know what they mean. God is going to wake up the minds of people to see the truths of such things. They will understand what their heavenly Father wants them to do.

What are you and I to do? God has feelings, emotions. He is very much like we are. He has been winking at these things in the past that we have been doing. But when it comes to the knowledge of the truth that He gives to us who are mature in Christ, we who have true historical knowledge, true chronological and geographical knowledge of what the Bible is all about, the time of winking is going to be over.

He is talking to mature children, not babes in diapers. He is now talking to mature children, and He expects His mature children to react to Him in a proper way. Do you know how we should react? We should be going by the law of Christ Jesus. That law of Christ Jesus is manifested through the fruit of the Spirit. Look at Galatians chapter 5 starting at verse 22. Many of you know these verses, but they are important for us to consider again. Here is God showing how we, as mature believers, should be acting in this world.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

• *Galatians 5:22–23*

Paul continues in chapter 6, summing up in verse 2, by saying: “**Bear you one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**” You are attached to Christ. You are a part of the family of God. You and I ought to be walking in the spiritual principles which we find in Galatians chapter 5, fulfilling the law of God.

Elsewhere the apostle Paul expanded on this:

“If there be therefore any consolation in Christ [consolation has to do with emotions and feelings], **if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies** [old terms for emotional feelings that are proper and right, see Colossians 3:12], **Fulfill you my joy** [Paul says], **that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others [the problems of others]. **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”**

• *Philippians 2:1–5*

“Bowels of mercies [compassion].” That is the mind that was in Christ Jesus. If that was the mind, the emotions, and the feelings of Christ, then that is what ought to be in you. That is what Paul says should be in me. When we apply these principles then we will be in tune with the wishes of our Father. When the heavenly Father says “Even by a wish, do this or do that,” you respond immediately by being like the obedient child who will do what the father says.

He has given many of us children, and we love our children. Some of us have grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We love them all. Through having those children we get to learn how He looks on us. We want our children to be happy, joyful, safe, and educated, and everything good for them. If we are proper parents, that is what we want. That is what God the Father wants for us, but He has given us these experiences to show the same type of feelings, the same type of emotions, that He has for us. Peter wrote:

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he cares for you.”

• **1 Peter 5:6–7**

God cares for you. That is marvelous, and that is what your heavenly Father feels regarding you. That is how I feel regarding my children and my grandchildren. That is how we should all feel toward our children and grandchildren.

God the Father loves us so much that He cares intensely for us, as Peter said. **“Cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”** That is correct. **“And let this mind be in you,”** Paul says, **“that was in Christ Jesus”** (Philippians 2:5). That mind is one of looking on the welfare of other people as well as yourself. That does not mean you just look after yourself. You do that, yes, but you look after the welfare of others, also. That is the mind that is in Christ Jesus.

What is Christ’s mind that He Himself expressed? Matthew chapter 11 beginning in verse 25, gives us what Jesus Himself said. There is no better way to close than to give the opinion of the person who is the express image of God the Father Himself, our elder brother:

“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes [that is what you are and what I am. We are just children at heart]. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in your sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knows the Son, but the Father; neither knows any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”

• **Matthew 11:25–27**

Jesus Christ has revealed the Father to you, and you ought to respect it by living and acting properly:

“Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [says Jesus] is easy, and my burden is light.”

• **Matthew 11:28–30**

I often thought that His yoke was heavy. I have been taught you have to do this, you have to do that. My goodness, sometimes all the laws and regulations that were given to me, that I have to do as a son, you know, it just made me sometimes wonder “can I possibly do them?” I was not reading the Scripture very carefully, was I?

He says we are babes. That is what we all are when you get down to it. He says, and I believe Him, that the yoke that He gives to us, if we will learn of Him, is meekness and lowliness of heart. You will find rest. He guarantees you **“my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”** Do you know why? It is because He carries it all. He carries the burden. That is what you must understand.

God the Father has feelings. God has emotions. Jesus Christ has feelings. Jesus Christ has emotions. So do you and so do I. We are all members of the very family of the Living God. The troubles, problems, and

difficulties we go through are nothing compared to the glory that will come to you as princes or princesses. Remember who you are. You are not a piece of junk. You are nothing more than a daughter or a son of the Living God. His burden is easy. It is light for you, because He carries it all.

Ernest L. Martin, 1995
Edited by David Sielaff, June 2010