

God's Character

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Healing Substitution Model: "God is love and love is not self-seeking" (1John 4:8, 1Corinthians 13:5). God's character of love is completely expressed in the life of Jesus (Hebrews 1:3). Every attribute of God – His justice, grace, and even His wrath – is an expression of His character of love. God is not arbitrary, but does everything for the good of all.

Penal Substitution Model: – "God is not only loving, but He is also just." God is arbitrary, and as the powerful creator, has the right to make arbitrary laws.

Documentation for HSM:

God is love. 1John 4:8

Love is not self-seeking 1Cor 13:5

Greater love has no man than He **give** His life for a friend
John 15:13

For God so loved the world He **gave** His only Son... John
3:16

This is how we know what love is that Christ **gave** his life
for us and we ought to **give** our life for our brother. 1John
3:16

The LORD, the LORD, **the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,** ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; Exodus 34:6,7

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ **If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.** From now on, you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." ⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. John 14:6-11

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. Heb 1:3

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Col 1:19,20

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, Col 2:9

The greatest gift that God could bestow upon men was bestowed in the gift of his beloved Son. The apostle says, "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?" There was nothing held in reserve. No second probation will ever be provided. If the unspeakable gift of God does not lead man to repentance, there is nothing that ever will move his heart. There is no power held in reserve to act upon his mind, and arouse his sensibilities. **The whole character of God was revealed in his Son,** the whole range of the possibilities of heaven is displayed for the acceptance of man in the Son of the Infinite One. The way for man's return to God and heaven has no barriers. The matchless depths of the Saviour's love have been demonstrated; and if this manifestation of God's love for the children of men does not prevail to draw men to himself, there is nothing that ever will. {ST, December 30, 1889 par. 6}

Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us, humbling Himself, veiling His glory, that humanity might look upon Him, **the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed. . . . In every act of Jesus,** in every lesson of His instruction, **we are to see and hear and recognize God. In sight, in hearing, in effect, it is the voice and movements of the Father.** {TMK 338.4}

By coming to dwell with us, **Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,-- God's thought made audible.** DA 19

Christ came to our world to become our sacrifice. He came to discover to our eyes the gems of truth, to place them in a new setting,--the frame-work of truth. He brought out of the treasure-house of God things new and old, that we might be able to trace down the links in the great plan of salvation. Through the sacrificial offerings of the Jewish dispensation, we are pointed forward to Christ, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. When Christ came, **it was to engage in the conflict with the enemy of God and man, on this earth, in the sight of the universe of heaven.** But why was it necessary to wage the warfare in the sight of other worlds?--It was because Satan had been an exalted angel, and when he fell, he induced many angels to join him in his revolt against God's government. **He worked in the**

minds of the angels as he works in the minds of men today. He made a pretension of loyalty to God, and yet he argued that angels should not be under law. He inculcated his ideas, his rebellion and enmity, and hatred of God's law originated in the minds of the angels in heaven through his influence. He caused the fall of man through the same temptations with which he had caused the fall of angels; and in the world where he proposed to work out his principles of rebellion, the battle had to be fought, **that all might behold the real nature and results of disobedience to God's great moral standard. He represented God in a false light, clothing him with his own attributes. Christ came to represent the Father in his true character. He showed that he was not an arbitrary judge, ready to bring judgments upon men, and delighting in condemning and punishing them for their evil deeds.** The Lord proclaimed his character to Moses in the mount. "And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." {ST, November 18, 1889 par. 6}

God exists in the triune perfection of other-centered love. His nature, character and being is love. All His actions are always in harmony with His character of love. There is no disparity between God, Father, Son or Holy Spirit. It is the message of God's character of love which is to lighten the world, and it is this message we proclaim!