

# Our Relationship with God in 2018: Estranged or Intimate?

A Study of the Character of God as He has Revealed Himself vs.  
the Substitute Idols of our Neo-Pagan Culture

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## Lesson 3: Sunday Early AM, 2 Sep

### Introduction & Review

[Slide 27 = Slide 4 to review the two basic views of life]

Satan's 2 basic lies that he still "hacks" into mankind's mind

Review of 4 points on God's attribute of Sovereignty

Will cover two attributes in this session

### God Alone is Perfectly RIGHTEOUS

1. Must begin with special revelation of His Righteousness found throughout His historic revelation. [Slide 28 to show the concept of "sacred space" such as Eden, Mt. Sinai, the Tabernacle] This is an example of the scholarly subject of "biblical theology" that studies how specific authors wrote based upon careful exegesis of their writings & the term coined by Dr. Merrill in his book. [Slide 29 & slide 30 citing verses depicting theophanies where God's absolute righteousness manifests]
2. Learn our finite analog to His righteousness because we are made "in His image." All mankind needs a universal standard to calibrate the conscience. Everyone realizes it the moment they make a moral judgment involving others. We must somehow conform to God's righteous standard in order to be a party to His contracts (contemporary law has a notion called "legal capacity" that refers to the requirement to enter contracts).
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of righteousness try to create some sort of substitute for God's righteousness since unbelief has no source of transcendent ethical standards. Two popular efforts: (1) "opinion poll ethics;" and (2) politically imposed regulations.
4. Concluding blessings to us.
  - As creatures with a unique "imagehood" we long in the depths of our heart for relationship with our unlimited, righteous Creator in whose Presence "all is right" beyond mere human relationships just as certain animals can bond with humans more strongly than with their own kind. An illustration by Ravi Zacharias based upon Isaiah 1:3.
  - Jesus Christ proved it is possible for humans (with unfallen natures as God originally designed us) to live in perfect conformity with God's righteousness without "cheating" by relying upon His deity to meet the trials of life (Doctrine of Kenosis) [Slide 31 citing Heb 5:8; 2:10]
  - Divine righteousness incentivizes my self-examination and confession. [Slide 32 citing 1 John 1:5-6; 1 Cor 11:28-29]

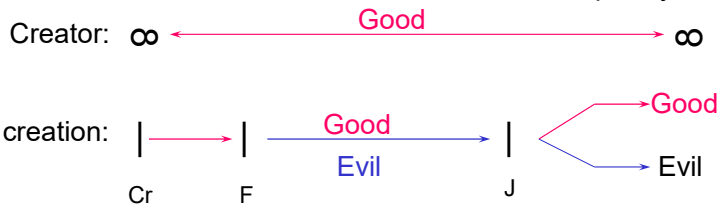
### God Alone is Perfectly JUST

1. Must begin with special revelation of His Justice found throughout His historic revelation. Two kinds of revealed justice—graceless judgments and vicarious judgments. [Slide 33 citing the limits on evil due to the ultimate end of grace and beginning of final judgment forever separating evil from good. NOTE: Slide 33 is saved at the end of this handout]

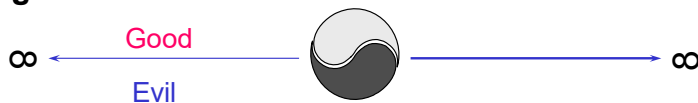
2. Learn our finite analog to His justice because we are made “in His image.” We get angry when we perceive natural and human evil and want it dealt with.
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of justice try to create some sort of substitute for God’s justice. Two examples: (1) personal vengeance [*Slide 34 citing warning against taking judgment into our own hand when God has provided civil authority to deal with it until the final judgment*]; and (2) humanly engineered revolutionary movements (Marxist-Socialist, Fascist, Muslim, Environmentalist—that inevitably fail by creating more injustice in spite of constantly gabbing about “social justice”).
4. Concluding blessings to us
  - Reminds me that a divine judgment is required to purge evil out for the Perfect Eternal Environment [*Slide 35 citing Rev 22:14–15*]
  - Divine justice Incentivizes my reliance upon Christ’s imputed righteousness to avoid God’s justice upon me as a fallen sinner.
  - Divine justice Incentivizes my reliance upon the Spirit’s righteous enablement to withstand Satan’s forensic challenges to my behavior before God in Heaven.

## Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

**Christian:** Good/Evil Mix is “Abnormal” & Temporary



**Pagan:** Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



The design of society as implied by God’s 10-commandment revelation and pagan unbelief’s assaults upon that design.