

# 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 1: Saturday morning, 1 Sep

### Introduction

Our objective this weekend

Our present cultural environment [*Slides 2 & 3—to show how God designed human society to function addressed in the structure of the 10 commandments. NOTE: Slide 3 is saved at the end of this handout, [Slide 4—to show the two basic views of life—biblical and pagan—and why at bottom only in the biblical view do we have accountability to the God we are going to study. NOTE: Slide 4 is saved at the end of this handout.]*

BUT God. . . . [*Slide 5—to show the structure of a typical “lament psalm” so we can see how David talked to God about Saul’s attempt to ambush him outside his home*]

### Our Methodology

Distinguish “special, verbal revelation” from “general, mute revelation” so we can properly apply the Word of God to various subject matter and life situations. This will be our method throughout all this weekend’s lessons—always begin with special revelation.

### Problems with the Human Relationship with God After the Fall in Eden

Sin-based estrangement leads to uneasiness and restlessness

[*Slide 6—to show two key verses speaking to mankind’s universal knowledge of God. Using black background with white lettering so everyone will focus on the details of the text!*]

Hiding from a face-to-face meeting with God

[*Slide 7—to show the futile attempt by unbelievers and carnal believers to hide from their Creator*]

Needing “fig leaves” to cover nakedness. [*Slide 8—to show how Adam & Eve tried to shield themselves from God’s knowledge of their nakedness*] Modern “fig leaves” include religious good works, intellectual ideologies, political utopian agendas, distractions like drugs.

Two specific lies of the Evil One still with us

- Denial of the existence of special revelation from God repeated since the beginning of fallen historic existence. Satan can easily “hack” into our brains to install his “malware”. [*Slide 9 with Gen 3:1*] [*Slide 10—to show at our nation’s founding Thomas Paine wrote his deist book “Age of Reason” to argue that reason was sufficient without special revelation*] [*Slide 11—to show at our nation’s founding evangelical believer Elias Boudinot countered Paine with another book, “The Age of Revelation.” This exchange shows that the “malware” of Gen 3:1 still was having an effect long after Eden.*] [*Slide 12—to show that one of the most renown theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Paul Tillich, continued the theme of Gen 3:1 in a sophisticated intellectual way.*] Consequent of “malware 1” = man’s mind *invents* truth instead of *discovering* truth.

- Mankind doesn't need God to establish moral law and is fully capable of establishing a just society on his own. [Slide 13 with Gen 3:4b-5] This is "malware 2" that prompts the repeated attempts throughout history to rebuild Babel with various global agendas. [Slide 14 cites Stephen Gould, the prominent advocate of evolution who openly acknowledges that man must invent truth and ethics.] [Slide 15 cites Gen 11:4 to show the heart of the Babel project] [Slides 16 & 17 to show that the Babel dream continued with the European Union organizers]

Conclusion: Rom 12:2; 1 John 4:4 Let's seek the Lord this weekend, knowing we will be with Him for eternity and that He is greater than the world system as David modeled this reasoning in Psalm 59.

BIBLEFRAMEWORK

### God's Design of Society

LIFE ( <i>protected</i> )	LIFE ( <i>jeopardized</i> )
<b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY</b> (strong & functioning)	<b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY</b> (weak & dysfunctional)
<b>LABOR &amp; PROPERTY</b> (respected & productive)	<b>LABOR &amp; PROPERTY</b> (demeaned & wasted)
<b>INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION</b> (consistently states truth)	<b>INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION</b> (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
<b>HEART ALLEGIANCE</b> (to God)	<b>HEART ALLEGIANCE</b> (to self)

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BIBLEFRAMEWORK

### Shall I Bow to My Creator?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>YES!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ancient monotheism</li> <li>- ancient Israel</li> <li>- Bible</li> <li>- fundamentalism</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>CREATOR/creature</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- God    man   nature</li> <li>- everlasting distinctions</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>PERSONAL SOVEREIGN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ultimate responsibility</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NO!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ancient myths</li> <li>- eastern religions</li> <li>- western philosophy</li> <li>- modern theology</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Continuity of Being</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- nature &gt; gods &gt; man</li> <li>- transmutation / evolution</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>IMPERSONAL FATE &amp; CHANCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ultimate victimization</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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The ethical difference between the Bible (special revelation) and pagan unbelief (general revelation perverted).