

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

# Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

# Our “Malware #1”

**“Has God indeed said?” (Gen 3:1)**

~~Special / Verbal Revelation~~

# Modern Skeptic 20<sup>th</sup> Century



**Paul Tillich**  
**1886–1965**

**“There are no revealed doctrines, but there are revelatory events and situations that can be described in doctrinal terms. . . . The ‘Word of God’ contains neither revealed commandments nor revealed doctrines.”**

~Paul Tillich, *Systematic Theology, I* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951) 125

## Our “Malware #2”

**“You won’t surely die for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened [enlightenment] and you will be like God knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:4b–5)**

**~~Dominion under God~~**

# God Determines Our Options in History

**“Woe to you, Chorazin! . . . Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes . . . it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than you.”  
(Matt 11:21–22)**

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# God's Sovereignty humbles Us

**“Your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field and they shall make you eat grass like an ox . . . till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whoever He chooses” (Dan 4:24–27)**

# God's Sovereignty Includes Personal Interaction

**“Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. . . . I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now, therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation!” (Ex 32:7–10)**

# God's Sovereignty Includes Personal Interaction

**“LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought them out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them . . . and to consume them from the face of the earth’? . . . Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them . . .” (Ex 32:11–13)**