

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

Our “Image-of-God” Deep Needs

1. Assurance that Someone is “in charge” of reality
2. A transcendental standard of right and wrong
3. Hope that ultimate justice will be done
4. Confidence that it is possible to know real, enduring truths
5. Assurance that laws of logic and nature stay the same and that those we interact with have a reasonable degree of stability

God Wants to Bless More Than to Curse

“I will bless those who bless you. And I will curse him who curses you. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen 12:3)

**“I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me. . . .”
(Ex 20:5–6)**

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’ ” (Matt 25:41)

God's Love ACTS

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom 5:8)

“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” (1 John 3:16)

“This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. . . . We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:10, 19)

Love Existed Forever within the Trinity

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you. Abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandment and abide in His love.” (John 15:9–10)

“As I have declared to them Your name . . . that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:26)

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. . . . But I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. . . . He who hates Me hates My Father also.” (John 15:20, 23)

Love in Modern Martyrs



“The Bible taught us that we should take up our cross . . . We have to lose our life for Christ, and it happened to my wife. This is the history of Christianity. I don’t hate the Afwerki gov’t because they

tortured my wife. They didn’t know what they were doing. I would like all Christians in the world to pray that our government will accept the gospel.”