

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

God Alone is Eternal

“ ‘I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty’ ” (Rev 1:8)

“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ ” (John 8:58)

“ ‘Present your case,’ says the LORD. . . . Show us what will happen. . . . Show the former things, what they were, that we may consider them. And know the latter end of them, or declare to us things to come.” (Isa 41:22–23)

Our “Image-of-God” Deep Needs (2)

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 of stability in nature and history

Our “Image-of-God” Deep Needs (2)

6. Assurance that Someone loves me in spite of my flaws
7. Joy that God is greater than the greatest natural forces & is able to empower me to live His way and to answer my prayers
8. Awareness that He is wholly present in my immediate environment sensing all its details
9. The divine viewpoint of eternity puts into perspective all events—rapid ones and slow ones

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

Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian:



Pagan:



God's Design of Society

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