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The Servant God; is this statement an oxymoron, a contradiction that God can be Sovereign yet the greatest servant of all? God is revealed in Old Covenant Scripture through Israel and in the New Covenant Scripture through Jesus, Son of Man, Son of God. Paul describes Jesus as “Now Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God.”

Most ancient religions see their gods as tyrannical masters of nature and life demanding human sacrifice at every turn. Even the enlightened Greeks saw them as “gods made in the image of man” complete with all human weaknesses except with more power. But the Judeo/Christian faiths reveal an understanding of God that shows we are made in His image and that God is simultaneously both just and loving.

The New Testament reveals Christ as being “The exact representation of His [God’s] being,” but does this conflict with the Old Testament portrayal of God? He is described as being so holy that no flesh can look on Him and live, “The God that is a consuming fire;” yet He is also depicted as “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy,” and one who is “Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear him. For he knows our frame, he remembers that we are dust.” On the surface, God seems to be a paradox. He reveals Himself with names that describe His person “The Lord that provides,” “The Lord our Righteousness,” “The Lord that heals” and yet He’s “The Judge of all.” These are two sides of understanding about His nature and person from the Old Covenant. How can it be that “God is love,” yet at the same time is the God who judges all sin? The new Covenant is revealed in Jesus Christ, the expression of God’s love and judgement.

The ultimate expression of the servant God is found in His amazing plan to save mankind from their head long plunge towards hell. What man could not do to avoid the terrible consequences of his sinful nature and behaviour God bore Himself. Just like a father who so loves his child he dies and sacrifices himself so that the child may live, so God has done for all humankind. Scripture defines love this way: “This is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” and, “Greater love has no man than this that a man should lay down his life for his friend.”

How can this loving God condemn anyone to hell? He states in His Word that “He is not willing that any perish but all come to repentance.” The key is found in the fact that mankind has been given the gift of free will giving us the capability of choosing our thoughts and actions. Thoughts lead to actions and actions have consequences which are either good or bad, and while we are free to make choices we are not free to choose the consequences of those choices. The only way to avoid the eternal outcome of our sin is to embrace the offer given by the Servant God when He took our place, and bore the consequences of our rebellion on Himself in Christ.

God, the ultimate servant, the ultimate lover of mankind offers the only hope for us, but to reject such love leaves us to personally bear the consequences of our own sin. In this God is both loving and just. He has done everything He could possibly do to save us.

In the Revelation, John states “Each was judged according to their deeds. And Death and Hell were thrown into the Lake of Fire.” This only happens to us if we have chosen to ignore God’s solution to save us from the consequences of our own behaviour.

Shalom.

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