

One-Sided God

Kenneth Tanner

When I preach or write about the love of our Father, there's always someone who says, "Don't forget to preach the other side of the story."

What other side?

That it's not true that God loves us before we, full of ourselves, show any sign of loving God?

That God has something bad or imperfect in store for us? Perhaps a snake or a stone instead of bread and fish?

That there are dark shadows lurking in God that might drown out his bright light at any moment?

That God gives only to take back the gift?

That God cannot be trusted?

That God hates humanity?

You see, there is no other "side" to God.

Our God is not—like the lesser gods, like many human fathers—many-sided, contradictory, or inconsistent.

There is no shifting shadow in God but only goodness and light and life and forgiveness and—praise God—gift.

Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

God IS love.

Love is not an attribute or part or side or angle of God but the *NAME* of God.

take away our sins (James 1:17; 1 John 4:9-10).

God is human in Jesus Christ and never stops being human. The scars he bears in heaven are in the body Mary gave him.

God not only makes the human race in love but God is in Jesus Christ a member of the human race.

God cannot become what does not inherently participate in his goodness.

He hates nothing that he makes and would have to hate himself if he hated us for he is one of us.

We are the ones who as we live in this world bring about our destruction, wreak havoc in other lives, and sow discord into nature, when we refuse the gift and the Son and the sacrifice and the

light and the love.

So choose the Love that has already chosen you and made your nature his own. □

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God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to