

SCIENCE, SELF AND SONSHIP

Lawrence L. Schkade, Ph.D.

1. GOD'S DESIRE. God is spirit, absolute, unconditioned, eternal and infinite {29B, 1.5.14, original, new *Urantia Book* page, section}. God is love {26B, 1.3.1}; wishes to share this love. Paradise Trinity responded, three personalizations yet one being {110D, 10.3.1; 644B, 56.9.1}, functioning in a system-like organization {1227C, 112.1. 17-19}; time-space was created; energy from nether Paradise was slowed down to the requisite degree of motion to become mass {1477C, 133.5.10}. Everything was cocreated by the Eternal Son through the Creator Son {74A, 6.1.3}. The Infinite Spirit provided mind, coordination and action {90C, 8.1.4}. Thus, science began.

2. CREATION: ITS PURPOSE. The material worlds were not created in perfection {846C, 75.8.6} (geosphere, biosphere, noosphere; Teilhard de C., 1959) but as staging for God's self-realization {29B, 1.5.16}. Humans evolved as potential partners to do the Father's will {1299B, 118.5.2}. The path to light and life requires converting potentials (disorder, entropy) into actuals (order, negentropy). For example, order comes from problem solving, statistical analysis; markets, laws, social mores, goals, policies. Order is sonship, selflessness, service, trust, balance, patience, peace, joy.

3. SCIENCE - natural (God's creation, analysis, reductionism) and **artificial** (human creation, design, wholism). These complementary sciences use different worldviews, truth discovery approaches, methodologies (e.g., analyze behavior vs. design systems, v. Gigch, 1991). A system is an entity, unity, arrangement {1227C, 112.1.18} of components and interactions; is partially closed (hard, mechanistic, antecedent focus), partially open (soft, self-organizing, goal focus, can adapt){1572D, 144.4.9}.

3a. Genes, environment, and personality. Study of genetic influence on personality began in the 1880s (Darwin, Galton, Lorenz); twin studies began in the 1980s. A metastudy of over 4,000 sampled pairs of sex and zygosity of twins reared apart. Modern modeling and statistical methods show 66% of personality (MMPI scales) variance is due to genetics. (Bouchard, *Science*, 1994; Wilson, *Sociobiology*, 1975).

Conclusions: (a) each individual selects stimuli and events based on genotype and helps to create their environment {1263C, 115.3.6}. (b) humans are dynamic creative organisms with opportunity to learn and to experience new environments {1227B, 112.1.9}, amplifying the effects of genotype onto the phenotype. (c) humans have adapted to life in face-to-face groups (sociality) {1227C, 112.1.16}.

3b. Genome maps - mice and humans. Genome mapmaking uses computers to "chop up" the DNA of a chromosome, use genetic methods and probes to find markers to that tend to be inherited with a given disease or cognitive trait. {*Science News*, 1996}. Are there markers for personality types? inherited memory? (multiple personalities vs. reincarnation){Eadie, *Embraced by the Light*, 1992} phenotype-genotype impacts?

4. PERSONALITY RESEARCH - psychological and neurobiological views. (Cloninger, *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*, 1994; *Science News*, 1996). Temperament and character are personality components, **defined differently** in psychology than in neurobiology. **Neurobiology** views **personality** as the **dynamic organization** of the psychobiological systems that modulate **adaptation to experience**, with characteristics also produced by biological and chemical variations. [Note: my additions to table below are in italics.]

Table 1

Research Field (Views, Models)	Temperament (Innate Tendencies)	Character (Developed Tendencies)
PSYCHOLOGY	emotional	intentional, thoughtful
COGNITIVE STYLES, Myers-Briggs Types, Kolb, other Scales:	<i>cerebral left-brain, thinking limbic left-brain, judging, physical sensory, concrete</i>	<i>perceiving, cerebral right-brain, intuition feeling, limbic right-brain, spiritual conceptual, abstracting, theorizing</i>
SYSTEM THEORY	<i>closed personality model Freud, psychoanalysis</i>	<i>open personality model Frankl, psychotherapy</i>
NEUROBIOLOGY	responses to emotions as stimuli for habits, moods procedures	self-aware concepts that influence our intentions and attitudes propositions and concepts
Primary Behaviors:	harm avoidance - fearful, pessimistic, timid, shy or optimistic, outgoing novelty seeking - risk taking persistence - ambitious reward seeking - engage in determined overachievers strong social attachments	self-directedness - maturity, resourcefulness, goal achievement cooperativeness - compassion, empathy, tolerance, helpful <i>(fruits of the spirit?)</i> self-transcendence - wise judgment spirituality, as opposed to egocentric materialism
Genetic Influence:	strong	much weaker
URANTIA BOOK:	<i>ability, psychic climate emotional endowment material, mortal mind</i>	<i>acquired by enlightened experience emotional and self control morontia mind, mature personality</i>

5. THE URANTIA BOOK: CHARACTER AND PERSONALITY are **defined differently** than by science. **Ability** is **inherited** {1779C, 160.4.5}; **inheritance** can be **neutralized** by a **bad** environment. **Heredity** is the foundation for **character** {948D, 76.2.6} which is **acquired** by **enlightened experience** {412C, 37.6.3}; is something **more than mere mind and morals**, it is recognized as **mature personality** {1776A,D, 160.2.6}. **Morontia career** **removes hereditary handicaps** {508B, 44.8.3}.

5a. God is personality, its source, bestower, and cause {28C,1.5.7, 79A, 6.7.1}. **Personality** is changeless, eternal, and unique; one of the **unsolved mysteries** of the universe; it can **unify** the **identity** of a living energy system {1225D,112.0.1-16, 1232C,

112.5.2, 70B, 5.6.2}. Personality includes **subjective self-consciousness** (mortal mind) and **objective response** (morontia mind) to the Father's personality circuit {106B, 9.8.6}. **Personality** potentially has **seven levels** of expression and realization and **unifies** matter, mind, and spirit, which **defies analysis** {1226D, 112.1.9, 1238B, 112.7.8}. Much **trouble** in **studying personality** could be **avoided** by remembering **dimensional** and **spiritual levels** are *not coordinated* in experiential personality realization {1227A, 112.1.12}.

6. SELF: ITS CHARACTERISTICS - (a) **awareness** of one's own and other's personalities; **discerns** the fact, law, and love of God; is known as it knows (194B-195D, 16.8-9); (b) **free will, individuality, and uniqueness**; (c) **interacts** with its **environment** through **mind**; that **process** constitutes **life**; (d) **possession** of **personality** that **identifies man** as a **spiritual being**; **unity** of selfhood and self-consciousness come from the **supermaterial** world {1227-1229, 112.1-16}; (e) is **material** on evolutionary worlds, **more enduring** on morontia worlds, and **secure** in spirit (*post-fusion*) {1238A, 112.7.16}.

6a. Self-consciousness is in essence a **communal consciousness**: God and man, Father and son, Creator and creature, brotherhood. Four universe-reality realizations are latent and inherent: (1) the quest for **knowledge**, the logic of **science**; (2) the quest for **moral values**, the sense of **duty**; (3) the quest for **spiritual values**, the **religious experience**; and (4) the quest for **personality values**, the ability to **recognize God as personality** and our fraternal **relationship** with **fellow personalities** {196C, 16.9.10}.

Moral self-consciousness is effected by sincerity, persistence and steadfast **God-seeking decisions** which **cannot be explained by science** {1228C, 112.2.6, 1229C, 112.2.16}. In **science** the human self observes the **material** world; **philosophy** observes the observation of the material world (e.g., Godel's Theorem, *metaviews*); **religion**, is true **spiritual experience** {1130D, 103.1.3,6}.

7. SONSHIP: A GIFT. You are **now planetary sons**, evolutionary creatures, hardly yet ascending sons; but you are indeed **children of potential** - even to the heights of glory and divinity attainment - and this spiritual status of **ascending sonship** you may **attain by faith** and by **freewill cooperation** with your **Adjuster** {448D, 40.7.2}. When you **believe** this **new gospel** of divine **sonship**, my **Father's will becomes your will**, and you are elevated to the high position of the **free children** of God, **liberated sons** of the kingdom (1589A, 141.2.2). The **child of God** comes into **grace** and the **new life** of the **spirit** by the **will** of the **Father**. The **kingdom of heaven - divine sonship** - must be *received as by a little child*. You **earn righteousness** - *progressive character development* - but **receive sonship as a gift** by **grace** and through **faith** {1621A,B, 144.4.3}. **Righteousness** is the **natural fruit** of the spirit-born life of **sonship** in the kingdom. Sonship is **incompatible** with the **desire to sin**. Rather, kingdom believers **hunger** for **righteousness** and **thirst** for **divine perfection** {1683A,B, 150.5.5}.

8. THE CIRCUIT OF LOVE. **God the Supreme** is the actualizing or evolving God of time and space {4C, F.IV.1-8}, the **Trinity evolving** {11A, F.VIII.5}, **absorbs executed personality as experience** {1287C, 117.5.14}; only **approached through**

experience{1289C, 117.6.1}. **God** enjoys expansions of **self-realization**{29B, 1.5.14}. **God is not omnificent - does not do all** that is done {1229C, 118.6.1}. The Father's love can **become real** to mortal men *only by passing through* God-seeking **human servers** as he in turn **bestows** this love upon their fellows. *The great circuit of love is from the Father, through sons to brothers, hence to the Supreme* {1289B, 117.6.10}.

9. SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE: THE SUPREME DECISION. Humans have volition, free will, but are limited to the finite level, except for the *supreme decision to become God-like* {1242A,D, 113.2.1}. *Supreme survival decisions* must be *formulated here* and are being *confirmed now* {1238A,112.7.6}. The **seat** of our **identity** must be **changed** from **mortal to morontia mind** {1237A}. Whoever wishes to be my **disciple**, let him **disregard himself** and **take up** full measure of his **responsibilities** (*of sonship*) **daily to follow me** {1750A, 158.6.8, 1770B, 159.5.10}. We are **responsible** for **accomplishment** according to our **abilities**; the rewards are commensurate {1876D, 171.8.10-13}. Do not allow anything to divert your devotion to this one duty (*do the Father's will*) {1931B, 176.3.5}. **My Father requires** his children to **grow in grace** and in **devotion** to the **unselfish service** of your fellow servants {1917C, 1.5.14}. Men do **not find** the **Supreme suddenly** like an earthquake, but **slowly, patiently** as a river wears soil beneath{1291A, 117.6.25}. What you are **becoming** day by day is **infinitely more important** than **what you are** today {1653A, 147.5.5}. The **keys** to the kingdom of heaven are: **sincerity, sincerity and more sincerity** {435D, 39.4.14}.

10. DESTINY: GOD'S PLAN: "There is in the **mind of God a plan** which **embraces every creature**, an eternal purpose of boundless **opportunity**, unlimited **progress**, and endless **life**; **infinite treasures** of a **matchless career** are yours for the **striving!** the **goal of eternity** is ahead! the **race for perfection** is on! *whoever will* may enter, **certain victory** will crown the efforts of **everyone** who **runs the race of faith and trust**, every step **guided** by the **Adjuster** and the **Spirit of Truth** {365C, 32.5.7}who will **always say, This is the way.**" {383B, 34.7.8}

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

<p>"Lord, let me be an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.</p> <p>O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek</p>	<p>to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.</p> <p>For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.</p>
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[Note: Please send comments and suggestions to L. Schkade, Box 195029, Arlington, TX 76011, email: schkade@uta.edu, phone: (817) 861-9291, fax (817) 794-5801. Thanks]