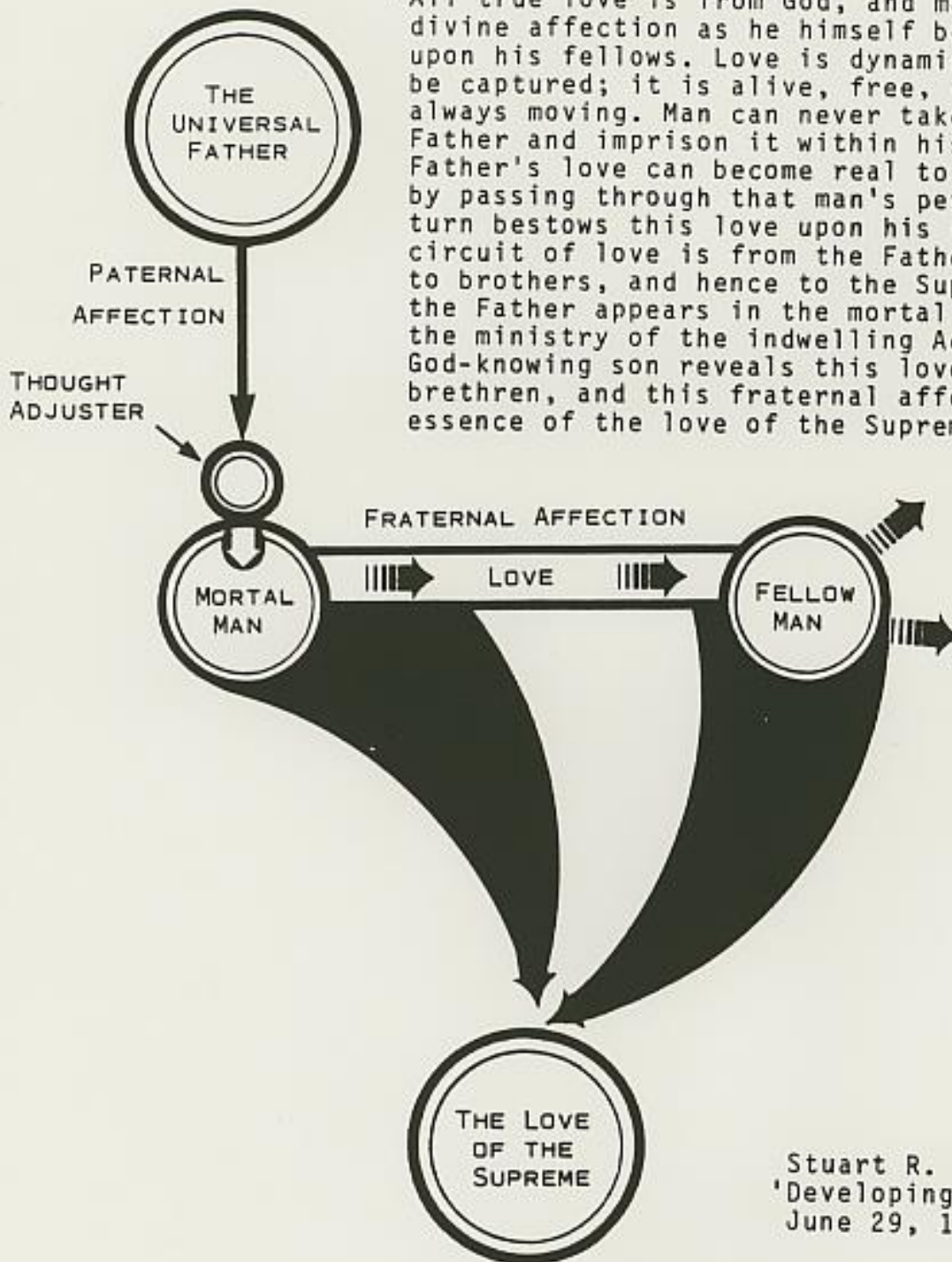


THE DYNAMICS OF LOVE

"All true love is from God, and man receives the divine affection as he himself bestows this love upon his fellows. Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving. Man can never take the love of the Father and imprison it within his heart. The Father's love can become real to mortal man only by passing through that man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows. The great circuit of love is from the Father, through sons to brothers, and hence to the Supreme. The love of the Father appears in the mortal personality by the ministry of the indwelling Adjuster. Such a God-knowing son reveals this love to his universe brethren, and this fraternal affection is the essence of the love of the Supreme." (UB 1289:3)



Stuart R. Kerr, III
 'Developing "Kingdom" Citizenship'
 June 29, 1992

1992 Intensive Summer Seminar
 "Personal Religion and Cosmic
 Citizenship" (June 27-July 2)
 Lake Forest College
 Lake Forest, Illinois

INDEX

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Introduction: The Dynamics of Love	1
The Father's Love	2
The Adjuster Bestowal	2
Sonship and Brotherhood	3
The Spirit Kingdom	4
Admission by Faith	5
Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom	5
The Social Impact of the Kingdom	7
The Supremacy of Love	8

INTRODUCTION: THE DYNAMICS OF LOVE

"All true love is from God, and man receives the divine affection as he himself bestows this love upon his fellows. Love is dynamic. It can never be captured; it is alive, free, thrilling, and always moving. Man can never take the love of the Father and imprison it within his heart. The Father's love can become real to mortal man only by passing through that man's personality as he in turn bestows this love upon his fellows. The great circuit of love is from the Father, through sons to brothers, and hence to the Supreme. The love of the Father appears in the mortal personality by the ministry of the indwelling Adjuster. Such a God-knowing son reveals this love to his universe brethren, and this fraternal affection is the essence of the love of the Supreme." [UB 1289:3]

We are told the experience of personal relationships in every mortal life, whether with persons human or divine, possesses the greatest of all values; each contact of a personal nature is an end unto itself. Love is simply the desire to do good to others, and this divine and inner urge of life is "founded on understanding, nurtured by unselfish service, and perfected in wisdom." [UB 1898:6]

By necessity, true love must be dynamic; it must not be simply reciprocated to only those who love you. Divine love is always outgoing in its manifestation. It seeks ever to satisfy those hungry for love, for it cannot be self-contained. The greater the expressed hunger for love, the more resourcefully does divine love strive to satisfy such need.

Love gives and craves attention; it seeks for such understanding fellowship as exists between parent and child. A dynamic love begins with that inward and spiritual fellowship with God as Father, and this relationship very directly manifests itself in the outpouring of loving ministry for one's fellow man. As a result of this genuine personal experience with a personal and loving God, one gains the consciousness of being a member of a growing family, and this insight propels this new family member into the active and unselfish service for an ever enlarging brotherhood.

The kingdom of heaven is an outgrowth of dynamic love that is first realized by recognizing the fact of God's sovereignty in the hearts of men. This recognition generates belief in the truth of sonship with this selfsame God, and this belief develops the saving faith that every desiring mortal being can effectively do the will of God - to be like God, to become perfect. "When the Father's will becomes truly your will, then you are in very truth in the kingdom because the kingdom has thereby become an established experience in you." [UB 1589:1] This kingdom of heaven is founded on love, proclaimed in mercy, and established in unselfish service.

THE FATHER'S LOVE

The reality of a personal God facilitates fellowship, and the fellowship between God and man is only experiencible provided both parties are persons. Mortal man can literally experience the full and undiminished impact of the infinite Father's love in all of its unlimited quality, even though he can never know the full extent of the heavenly Father's infinitude. As a person, God is approachable; the Father is attainable. The dynamic forces of his divine love opens the way for advancement of every worthy person in all the universe of universes to the very Paradise presence of the Universal Father. We, as mortal ascenders, will continue the increase of our love for God in the same way that a child increases its love over time for its earthly parent. The Universal Father forever loves and seeks the welfare of his created sons and daughters just as father, a real father, a true father loves his earthly children. The very fact of our deepest need for love and affection is more than sufficient to unleash the continual flow of the Father's tender mercies and saving grace.

"The love of the Father absolutely individualizes each personality as a unique child of the Universal Father, a child without duplicate in infinity, a will creature irreplaceable in all eternity. The Father's love glorifies each child of God, illuminating each member of the celestial family, sharply silhouetting the unique nature of each personal being against the impersonal levels that lie outside the fraternal circuit of the Father of all."
[UB 138:5]

When the mortal child of this heavenly Father dedicates his human will to the doing of the Father's will, the Father responds by making that man more than he is; he makes him a son of divine destiny. This consecration of the mortal will constitutes man's choicest gift of true value to the Paradise Father.

THE ADJUSTER BESTOWAL

The love of God is individualized to each human soul by the indwelling of the Adjuster, the actual spirit fragment of the Father himself. The indivisibility of the Father does not interfere with the bestowal of his own spirit in the form of the Thought Adjusters whose destinies are to live in the hearts of mortal men. This gift of bestowal is the greatest manifestation of the Universal Father's divine love for mortal beings. Spiritually, this gift is a great equalizer by which all men are truly equal in the eyes of God, for the Father loves each and every one of his children with the same fullness of his infinite love. The presence of this Father fragment within the intellect of every normal-minded and morally conscious mortal gives positive assurance of man's divine fellowship with the living God.

The Adjusters reveal a supernal love and spiritual ministry in their relationship to fusion creatures. When an evolving mortal becomes dominated by the love of his fellows and consecrated to unselfish ministry to his brethren in the flesh, then does an Adjuster descend to indwell the mind of such a mortal minister. The love that this Thought Adjuster brings is the most truly divine affection in all creation; it is touchingly sublime and divinely Fatherlike. There is nothing in all of the universe of universes to compare with their marvelous ministry to the children of the evolutionary worlds.

"The Adjusters are the actuality of the Father's love incarnate in the souls of men; they are the veritable promise of man's eternal career imprisoned within the mortal mind; they are the essence of man's perfected finaliter personality, which he can foretaste in time as he progressively masters the divine technique of achieving the living of the Father's will, step by step, through the ascension of universe upon universe until he actually attains the divine presence of his Paradise Father."
[UB 1176:2]

Man can discover the full extent that God's divine spirit is working in his mind, he can determine that degree to which he is yielding to the teaching and guidance of the heavenly Father's indwelling spirit, by taking account of his growing ability to show forth love for his fellow man. "This spirit of the Father partakes of the love of the Father, and as it dominates man, it unfailingly leads in the directions of divine worship and loving regard for one's fellows."
[UB 1642:3] The Father's indwelling presence, along with the assistance of his Son's Spirit of Truth as it is poured out upon all flesh, bears witness of mankind's intended reality as sons and daughters of God. The spiritual capacity for the reactive growth of the evolving soul is man's faith in truth and his love for his fellow man.

SONSHIP AND BROTHERHOOD

The universality of the Father's love for each and every individual as a beloved child in the heavenly family, without special distinction accorded to any single individual, brings about the relationship of the whole, the universal brotherhood. This divine family of all individuals manifests itself in the universal brotherhood of the freewill children in the kingdom of God. "Brotherhood is a reality of the total and therefore discloses qualities of the whole in contradistinction to qualities of the part." [UB 138:6]

Sonship is the supreme relationship of man to God, creature to Creator. By recognizing sonship as the gift of God, God's children will discover that service in the kingdom is the supreme delight of life. Citizens within the kingdom naturally hunger for truth and righteousness, just as they thirst for divine perfection. They possess a secure faith in the certain triumph of righteousness in the world, for "righteousness is the natural fruit of the spirit-born life of sonship in the kingdom." [UB 1683:3]

Jesus declared himself to mankind as Son of God just as we are sons of God. This shared relationship to the Universal Father makes mankind and Jesus brethren in the heavenly estate, and all the more so since we have also become brethren in the flesh of earthly life by virtue of the seventh bestowal mission of this now sovereign Creator Son to our local universe of Nebadon. When Jesus portrays the divine nature and perfectly loving character of his Father and our Father of Paradise, he knows whereof he speaks.

Brotherhood and service are the cornerstones of the gospel of the kingdom. This brotherhood is a natural outgrowth of the fatherhood of God. Consciousness of one's neighbor as a creature brother becomes possible when we are conscious of God as our Creator Father. This brotherhood is universal, being a relationship of the whole as rooted in the Father's universe reality to all moral creatures. "You will learn to love your brethren more when you first learn to love their Father in heaven more, and after you have become truly more interested in their welfare in time and in eternity. And all such human interest is fostered by understanding sympathy, unselfish service, and unstinted forgiveness." [UB 1955:7]

We are driven to search out our brothers and sisters, to discover their problems, and to consequently learn to love them. This is the supreme experience of living our lives in this world. The better that we develop an understanding of our neighbor, the easier it becomes to love him. "It is not so important to love all men today as it is that each day you learn to love one more human being." [UB 1098:4]

THE SPIRIT KINGDOM

The spirit kingdom is that state of being whereby the faithful sons of God give their wholehearted devotion to doing the will of the Father in heaven. This loving service is both enlightening and liberating to man in his struggle between the flesh and the spirit. Man's pursuit for the divine attainment of perfection leads him into the spiritual kingdom of God.

The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual experience resulting from the enthronement of God in the hearts of men. However, this newly acquired kingdom experience often takes some measure of time before its secure lodgement in the soul of man will eventually lead to everlasting righteousness and eternal salvation. It is by virtue of the perfecting effort in the service of the heavenly Father that progressive righteousness and increasing joy will be attained.

The kingdom of heaven is an evolutionary process; you must continue to bring forth the fruits of the Father's indwelling spirit if you are to continue to ascend in the progressive life of divine fellowship. This effort begins right here on earth and will continue to progress up through each and every successive life station all the way to Paradise itself.

ADMISSION BY FAITH

"John came preaching repentance to prepare you for the kingdom; now have I come proclaiming faith, the gift of God, as the price of entrance into the kingdom of heaven. If you but believe that my Father loves you with an infinite love, then you are in the kingdom of God." [UB 1537:5]

Jesus taught his apostles that faith was the only requirement for entrance into the Father's kingdom; "Faith is the open door for entering into the present, perfect, and eternal love of God." [UB 1545:10] It is the seed of this vitalizing faith that brings forth this divine spirit of God to teach the minds and rule the hearts of the spiritually reborn citizens of this heavenly kingdom. Men and women alike are called to become faith sons of the heavenly Father in the brotherhood of love wherein righteousness reigns; it is here that men and women personally experience the true satisfaction and assurance of God's indwelling spirit of his love and saving grace. "When my children once become self-conscious of the assurance of the divine presence, such a faith will expand the mind, ennoble the soul, reinforce the personality, augment the happiness, deepen the spirit perception, and enhance the power to love and be loved." [UB 1766:8] This whole-souled belief in the undoubting truth of the gospel of eternal salvation refreshes the soul, inspires the mind, and renews the spirit of the faithful.

This gospel of the kingdom is the good news of the gift of eternal life which men receive by faith. It is the realization and acknowledgement of God's rule within the hearts of men that brings about the kingdom of God and this rule is faith-confirmed by the spirit which he has sent to live within the souls of mortal men. Man's spiritual insight is acquired by faith and, with enhanced Adjuster guidance, leads to augmented God-consciousness. "And when you know the Father, you are confirmed in the assurance of divine sonship, and you can increasingly love each of your brothers in the flesh, not only as a brother--with brotherly love--but also as a father--with fatherly affection." [UB 1574:7]

"This is the kingdom of heaven--God is your Father and you are his sons, and this good news, if you wholeheartedly believe it, is your eternal salvation." [UB 1593:1]

JESUS' GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Jesus taught his apostles the better technique of proclaiming the kingdom of heaven as a positive and fulfilling proclamation that seeks not to replace or overpower the faulty misperceptions and erroneous beliefs of those who are seeking salvation. Rather, the kingdom is that open door that leads to the great and living truths that are destined to fill the emptiness in the hearts of all hungry souls. "When you have presented to mortal men the good news that

God is his Father, you can the easier persuade him that he is in reality a son of God. And having done that, you have brought the light of salvation to the one who sits in darkness." [UB 1592:5]

In instructing the apostles to preach the gospel, Jesus emphasized that they proclaim the "glad tidings of the kingdom of heaven" whereby man actually enters into the exquisite happiness therein. They must instruct believers by generously showing forth their own love, compassion, and sympathy. "You are to love all men as I have loved you; you are to serve all men as I have served you. With understanding sympathy and brotherly affection, fellowship all your brethren who are dedicated to the proclamation of the good news.... Remember, as you love one another, all men will know that you are my disciples." [UB 2041:7]

Jesus prevailed upon his disciples to be worthy ambassadors of this kingdom whereby they actually choose to live that new life that results from having tasted of the good spirit realities of the kingdom. All men who are witness to these reborn lives of the spirit would become sufficiently kingdom conscious to seek further inquiry concerning the joyous ways of the kingdom. The disciples ought to provide living examples that will reveal the workings of God to the individual man and thus to lead him into son-consciousness, to become a faith son of the living God. "In preaching the gospel of the kingdom, you are simply teaching friendship with God. And this fellowship will appeal alike to men and women in that both will find that which most truly satisfies their characteristic longings and ideals." [UB 1766:5]

Jesus' gospel of the kingdom was more essentially the teaching of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man - sonship with God. This is analogous to a family relationship where the first familial commandment is love for the father, and the second commandment is the mutual love among the children. "To Jesus the kingdom was the sum of those individuals who had confessed their faith in the fatherhood of God, thereby declaring their wholehearted dedication to the doing of the will of God, thus becoming members of the spiritual brotherhood of man." [UB 1865:1] This quality of brotherly affection will inevitably manifest itself in unselfish and loving social service.

Jesus loved men so much that his love invariably awakened the response of love in the human heart. This love is truly contagious and eternally creative. "As my father has loved me, so have I loved you. Live in my love even as I live in the Father's love. If you do as I have taught you, you shall abide in my love even as I have kept the Father's word and evermore abide in his love." [UB 1945:6] This love of Jesus is sublimely twofold: as the divine Creator Son of God he loves man with a fatherly affection, and as the human Son of Man Jesus loves man as a brother - as a man among men. As the sovereign Creator of our universe, he sends his Spirit of Truth to live inside each one of us. His presence in our hearts compellingly draws all children of light toward one another, and, along with his

Father's coinhabitating Adjuster presence, they are both able to live in the hearts and souls of every one of us; they are supremely able to make that love divinely real in all of our experiences of loving one another.

"The acceptance of the doctrine of the fatherhood of God implies that you also freely accept the associated truth of the brotherhood of man. And if man is your brother, he is even more than your neighbor, whom the Father requires you to love as yourself. Your brother, being of your own family, you will not only love with a family affection, but you will also serve as you would serve yourself. And you will thus love and serve your brother because you, being my brethren, have been thus loved and served by me. Go, then, into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe, and nation. My spirit shall go before you, and I will be with you always." [UB 2053:5]

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE KINGDOM

The spiritual kingdom of God is neither a material nor an intellectual phenomenon - it results from the divine relationship between God and man. Man's collective desire to love God and to love every neighbor as he loves himself will inevitably lead to some form of ideal social order. "As the gospel of this kingdom shall spread over the world with its message of good cheer and good will to all men, there will grow up improved and better relations among the families of all nations. As time passes, fathers and their children will love each other more, and thus will be brought about a better understanding of the love of the Father in heaven for his children on earth." [UB 1597:2]

Although the kingdom of God is strictly in the hearts of men, and is not therefore a social institution in and of itself, when the spirit kingdom has infiltrated the hearts of all men, such a worldwide spiritual brotherhood of God-knowing individuals will actualize into a social phenomenon that is bound to repercuss in major political and economic changes. The kingdom of God in the hearts of men will likely promote an ecumenical unity among the world's religions by eliminating their foundations for ecclesiastical authority. Religious sovereignty will return to the Universal Father as its proper source.

The spiritual transformation of humanity will lead to the worldwide brotherhood of man; this is the only technique that can accelerate the natural trend of social evolution. The spread of augmented moral insight and the deepening of soul capacity of every mortal to love and understand his fellow mortal will lead to transcended civilization and the worldwide realization of the brotherhood of man. This ideal of social attainment can be realized only in the establishment of the divine kingdom. "And sooner or later, these concealed truths of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men will emerge to effectively transform the civilization of all mankind." [UB 2061:7]

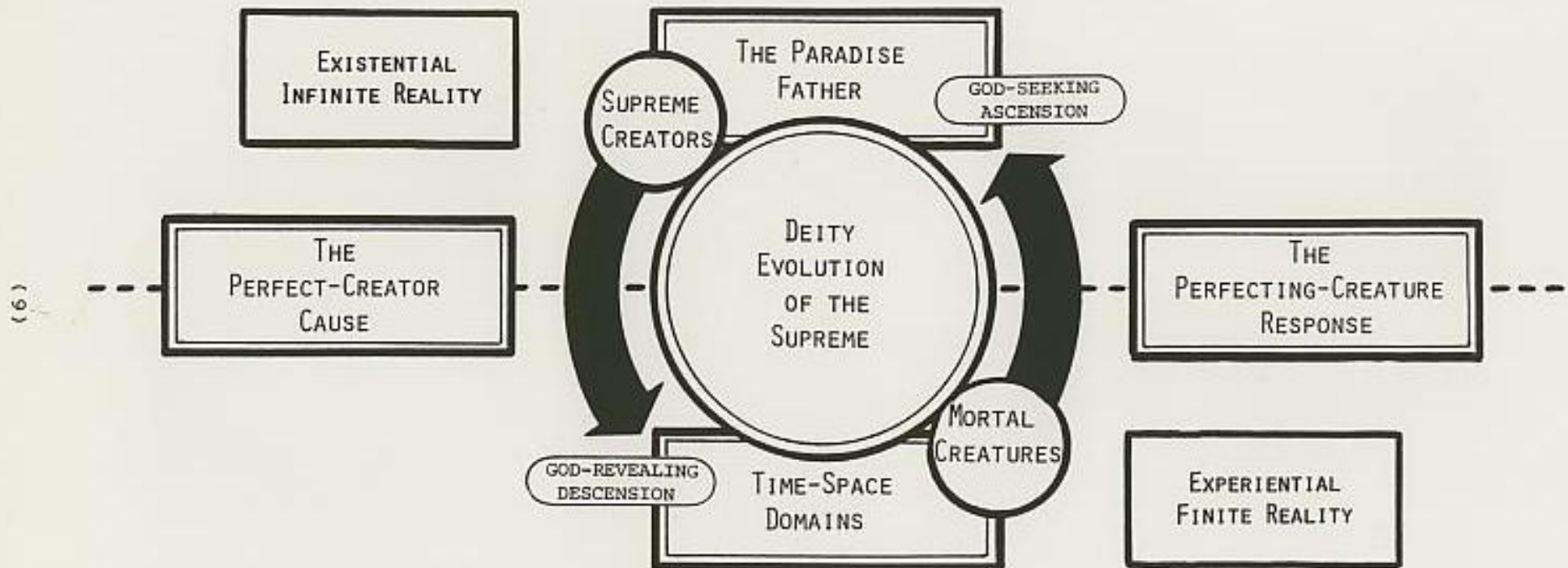
THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE

Considering all that the Father and his Son do for mankind in their loving ministry, we not only possess the ability to share this affection with our brothers and sisters but we also have an opportunity to contribute to the emergence of the Supreme Being. All experiences of love and service in all the universes of universes manifest themselves in the actualization of the Supreme Being. "The motivation of faith makes experiential the full realization of man's sonship with God, but action, completion of decisions, is essential to the evolutionary attainment of consciousness of progressive kinship with the cosmic actuality of the Supreme Being." [UB 1211:3]

The kingdom of God exists in the hearts of mortal man, but when this kingdom establishes a brotherhood that encompasses a world, then the Supreme Being has attained sovereignty on that planet:

"Man can discover the Father in his heart, but he will have to search for the Supreme in the hearts of all other men; and when all creatures perfectly reveal the love of the Supreme, then will he become a universe actuality to all creatures. And that is just another way of saying that the universes will be settled in light and life." [UB 1290:9]

CREATURE-CREATOR SYNTHESIS



"IN THE PERSONS OF THE SUPREME CREATORS THE GODS HAVE DESCENDED FROM PARADISE TO THE DOMAINS OF TIME AND SPACE, THERE TO CREATE AND TO EVOLVE CREATURES WITH PARADISE-ATTAINMENT CAPACITY WHO CAN ASCEND THERETO IN QUEST OF THE FATHER. THIS UNIVERSE PROCESSION OF DESCENDING GOD-REVEALING CREATORS AND ASCENDING GOD-SEEKING CREATURES IS REVELATORY OF THE DEITY EVOLUTION OF THE SUPREME, IN WHOM BOTH DESCENDERS AND ASCENDERS ACHIEVE MUTUALITY OF UNDERSTANDING, THE DISCOVERY OF ETERNAL AND UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD. THE SUPREME BEING THUS BECOMES THE FINITE SYNTHESIS OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PERFECT-CREATOR CAUSE AND THE PERFECTING-CREATURE RESPONSE." (UB 1278:7)

THE DYNAMICS OF LOVE

"As the days pass, every true believer becomes more skillfull in alluring his fellows into the love of eternal truth.

- Are you more resourceful in revealing goodness to humanity today than you were yesterday?
- Are you a better righteousness recommender this year than you were last year?
- Are you becoming increasingly artistic in your technique of leading hungry souls into the spiritual kingdom?"
(UB 1740:3)
- "Are your ideals sufficiently high to insure your eternal salvation while your ideas are so practical as to render you a useful citizen to function on earth in association with your mortal fellows?"
(UB 1740:4)

WORKSHOP QUESTION

How do you respond to the above inquiry from The Urantia Book?
How might you more creatively apply the dynamics of love in your life here on earth?

Statement of Beliefs

Vision

THE MALE AND FEMALE DERIVATIONS OF HUMAN GENDER ARE TRULY EQUAL BUT DIFFERENTIAL--HENCE COMPLEMENTAL--TO ONE ANOTHER BY CREATIVE DESIGN

In its full and essential nature, humankind is dually differentiated according to function, awareness, and behavior response. Practically regarded, men and women are representative of "two distinct varieties of the same species living in close and intimate association." Male and female are perfectly equal in mind endowment and spiritual status, but they remain individually supreme in their own personal domains of activity as these are "determined by biologic differentiation and by mental dissimilarity."

THE SUPREME DEPENDENCE OF MEN AND WOMEN ON SHARED CO-OPERATION IS DIVINELY INTENDED TO GREATLY ENHANCE THEIR MUTUAL POTENTIALS FOR SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, EMOTIONAL, AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The differences of nature, reaction, viewpoint, and thinking between man and woman provide for partnership associations that greatly "multiply functional versatility". This enhancement of possibilities for personal attainment and accomplishment provides a means for overcoming the many inherent limitations incumbent on the imperfect status of finite being. Throughout our ascendent careers, men and women will beneficially co-operate "in the solution of perplexing universe problems and in the overcoming of manifold cosmic difficulties."

Goal

MEN AND WOMEN MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP A LOVING TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING FOR ONE ANOTHER, TO EXPERIENTIALLY LEARN TO FEEL AND RESPECT THE DEEPEST CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE OTHER, AND TO CREATE A CULTURE THAT PROMOTES NEW MODES OF THINKING, NEW SYSTEMS OF VALUES, AND NEW EXPRESSIONS OF SPIRITUAL IMAGERY THAT MUST NEEDS BE INCLUSIVE OF BOTH MALE AND FEMALE SPIRITUAL DESIRES