

As Christians we all strive to be as much like Jesus as we can. After all we are all created in the image of God so it should not be so hard to act and think like Him. But unfortunately it is not as easy as it appears on the surface. We have been given the ability to choose to act as we see fit (free will) and with that attribute God gave us, most of us have not matured to the point of not making the wrong choice (sinning). Some people even take this to the extreme, as if they feel that they are god and can make any choice with impunity. Therein lays “the rub” as Shakespeare would call it.

Adam & Eve, who made the first mistake, were probably thinking that that bearing the image of God was not enough. They wanted to BE God. They may have been reaching to be God's equal. God knew good from evil.

Why shouldn't they?

When they reached for the forbidden fruit. It seems that it wasn't the fruit they were reaching for. They were reaching for equality with God. They wanted to know good from evil and be their own god. They felt that they were being deprived of an attribute God had. That was their epic failure.

We as human beings have been doing the same ever since. That's the essence of sin – not trusting that God will give us what is best for us.

Maybe that's our problem we try to reach too far. We reach to BE god rather than reaching to be LIKE God. **By definition God has no equal** – He is one and *there is no other*. Not us, nor some other so-called god.

There are many things that God knows and does that we are not capable of doing or even thinking about at this point in our development. The minute we start thinking we can be equal to God; we set ourselves on a course leading away from the true Creator God. We make great humans, but terrible gods. And when we set out on a course to make ourselves gods, we can actually become quite horrible humans.

In some ways it is like being thrown into the water when we can't swim. If we relax the water will buoy us safely to the surface. God is like that water (metaphorically). When we relax and don't fight God we can see that God is always reaching for us. That's who Jesus is—the one who reaches for us, right where we are. Not only does He reach for us, He restores His glorious image in us and restores us into the people He created us to be in the first place; but only if we don't fight and resist him. He is patient and will wait until we have proven to ourselves that we cannot be God.

If the Spirit of God is leading you, then take comfort in knowing you are His children. You see, you have not received a spirit that returns you to slavery, so you have nothing to fear. The Spirit you have received adopts you and welcomes you into God's own family. That's why we call out to Him, “Abba! Father!” as we would address a loving daddy.

Romans 8:14-15 The Voice

Only by being a child of God can we reach the potential that we were created for. That means we are His offspring, but not HIM. He is the Father, we are the child; obeying Him by following the lead of His Spirit is our best choice. Not as a slave, who must obey the master, but as a child who is nurtured to follow in the footsteps of the father.

By the working of Jesus and the Holy Spirit along with the fellowship of other believers, Jesus protects us from the broken patterns of this world and transforms us by transforming our mind, the innermost part of our lives where our affections and dispositions and aspirations live. This is where our character is formed to be like God's character.

This doesn't mean that we will not be affected by these broken evil patterns of this world, but our minds will be protected and we will learn how to handle these broken patterns in order to help others – now and in the future.

*Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, **but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.***

Matthew 5:19 (NIV)

Would we be better off trying to be god or being His children?

I think if we are honest with ourselves, the answer has to be being His children.

We don't have the mind of God.

We don't have the maturity to be Him.

We don't have the Godly love and concern for ourselves or others.

We don't have His vision of what His creation can attain.

We do have the option of being LIKE Him as He matures us over time – but only if we see and accept Him as the ONLY God.