

God | Father, Maker, Almighty
Romans 8:14-23

THE REALITY OF OUR GROAN

Romans 8:22-23

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. 23 And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the firstfruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

WHAT WE GROAN FOR

(v.18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

"You playing is the best argument I've ever heard for the existence of God, because I don't really believe a human alone can do this."

—Steve Jobs

HOW WE GROAN WITH HOPE

Who God is—A King In Community

All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

If we only relate to the Deity in the first person, as the Creator, how much we miss. If we focus myopically on our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we miss the God of history, that still speaking and ever creating God yet at work creating and loving us. If we measure our faith upon having an ecstatic experience of the Holy Spirit and it does not happen that way, are we then inferior Christians? The Trinity keeps us more than honest. Our celebration and appreciation for this sacred mystery keeps our faith lives from being malnourished and incomplete. .”

—Penelope Mark-Stuart.

“The truth behind the Trinity, I believe, lies in one of the first Scripture verses we ever learned, (1 John 3:16) God is love. The Trinity, then, is love—love seeking infinite expression. When it comes to a description of this God who is Love even the greatest theologian is left babbling like a child, for human language can never ultimately capture God’s essence. But that’s no reason not to try. God is not offended at our metaphors as long as we don’t mistake the picture for the Truth...”

"The key is to look past our metaphors of God and even our own particular experiences of God to the Love who lives at the heart of it all—the Love who created our world and fashioned us with such care, the Love who passionately desired to become one of us and for a little while pitched his tent among us; and the Love who could not ultimately leave us but remains with us to inhabit every moment of our existence."

—Penelope Mark-Stuart.

What God Does—Maker

(v.20-21) For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children

Why God Does It—Father

Hebrews 2:10

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

Romans 8:14-15

All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, 17 and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

Hebrews 2:11-13

For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying: 'I will proclaim Your name to My brothers; I will sing hymns to You in the congregation.'

13 Again, 'I will trust in Him.' And again, 'Here I am with the children God gave Me.'

Are you a child of God through faith in Jesus? Name to God a groan you would like him to turn into a gift for transformation. Ask God for the grace to view your pain in light of future glory.