

Our Relation to God

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (Luke 11:2)

The greatest brain ever employed in the service of the nation belonged to Daniel Webster. He was the pillar of our Constitution and the defender of our political faith. One day he was asked in a company to repeat the most tremendous thought that ever passed through his mind.

After some meditation he replied it was “the conception of my personal responsibility to Almighty God.” That is a stupendous concept. But begging the pardon of Daniel Webster, I mean to introduce to you a greater, because more fundamental.

Webster’s idea is not primary, but secondary. You can never understand the responsibility either to God or man until you make clear the relation behind it. My responsibility to my son is entirely different from my responsibility to another man's son, because my relation is different. At the back of responsibility stands relation, and that must be made vivid and clear to you before you can know your responsibility. If any man will make plain my relation to God, I will then see easily my responsibility.

If any man will make sure my relation to man, I will easily see my responsibility. Responsibility grows out from relation; therefore the first question, the outstanding question, the supreme question for any soul is not, “What is my responsibility to God?” but, “What is my relation to God?”

(The Humiliation of Christ: Five Sermons by William M. Blood & Henry W. Cummings, Cincinnati: The Methodist Book Concern, 1913, 97-98, Paragraph Structure Modified; From Chapter V, Our Relation to God by Robert McIntyre)