

## Contemplation on the Teachings on Brotherhood- By Patti Fields

I have been reading The Urantia Book. Among other things, it includes an account of Jesus' life from birth through the resurrection, clarifying what happened, what was said and what was taught 2000 years ago. One of the striking similarities of the teachings of Jesus as recorded in history and the teachings of Jesus as scribed in A Course in Miracles is the reoccurring theme of "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man". (Urantia)

The ultimate lesson Jesus was trying to teach and is teaching again in A Course in Miracles is that we are the Sons of God created by and in the likeness of the Father. The Sonship is One and eternity is the only Reality there is. There can be no separate universe apart from God and eternity can only be love. To a mind that has learned to see separation, duality, differences, and the opposite of love, this seems like an impossible concept to grasp. To a mind that believes everything it sees, the fear of letting go of all it knows is tremendous. It takes gentle learning to release our ideas of separation. It takes a wise and loving Guide to lead us step by step to the experience of oneness. Fortunately for those who would like to learn this lesson, we have a Guide and Teacher to take us step by step. Jesus followed this Guide and now it is our turn to follow Him.

A step by step approach has to begin with where we are. Take a quick look around. There appears to be many individual personalities, housed in different bodies where no two are alike. Each individual has different physical features, mannerisms, voices, gestures, abilities, talents, and even fingerprints. When a mind sees so many differences and believes what it sees, how can we begin to comprehend that there is only One and this One is God? Jesus takes a step by step approach to gently lead us from seeing double to seeing only one.

He tells us to look again and this time instead of seeing another person, notice that they are your brother. This idea of brotherhood occurs many times in the bible, in The Urantia Book and in A Course in Miracles. It is an important theme that is meant to lead us away from separation and toward oneness. How is seeing someone as a brother a step toward this concept of oneness? If someone is a brother this means they are in the same family *and* it also means we have the same father. This brother who seemed so different from you when seen outside your family circle is now seen as similar. If we exist together in the same family the first layer of differences dissolve.

But this cannot be the end of the teaching; for we still believe that although we have the same father and share the same lineage, we are different. You might even secretly hear yourself saying, "Ok, I agree we are in the same family, but he is definitely the black sheep of the family!" So we must continue on our journey and take another step.

This next step involves taking an even closer look at your brother. Each brother has within his/her mind Holy Spirit thoughts, wisdom and love. This mind is shared by all. Your brother is not just in the same family where you share similar traits; you are exactly alike at the level of the mind. There is a shared ego and a shared Holy Spirit. How does seeing the shared mind

dissolve the illusion of separation? “When two minds join as one, and share one idea equally, the first link in the awareness of the Sonship (oneness) has been made.” (Urtext.pg432)  
Joining at the level of the mind is an important step toward oneness but we haven’t arrived at the journey’s end yet. There is one more step that must happen.

We may have discovered who is in our family (everyone we see), and that each Son is exactly alike because we are the same mind, but we have yet to accept Who Created this family. Here again we see the similarities between Jesus’ teachings in history and the teaching throughout ACIM. Our Creator, our Source, is a loving Father. Jesus came to teach not only about Who we are as Sons of God but Who God really is as a loving Father. Many shy away from this concept of Father, because of their past learning of what a father is. But this is the very thing the Course asks us to heal.

“Father” in the truest sense of the word is only love, looks out for the welfare of his children, lends his strength and protection and provides for all of his children’s needs. If the Father is love He can only have offspring that are like Himself. Therefore each son must be love, just like the Father; “like Father, like Son”. (Urtext) Could God see His children different than Himself?

Let’s review the steps we take toward one another and toward God. As we are willing to see a seeming “other” as part of our family, we open to the awareness that at the level of the mind and spirit we are exactly the same. Now it’s just a tiny step toward joining at the level of the mind. With this joining, we open to the truth of a loving Father Who can only give love and create love. Now we are ready to learn that the Sonship is One and there exists nothing outside of this oneness therefore there exists nothing outside of God.

I find this learning so exciting. I’m taking a course that doesn’t ask me to cross a big divide but leads me on a journey from separate, individual personalities, to brothers, to twins, to only one. Each step is a joy as I learn there is no sacrifice to accept just how close we are to each other and to our Father.

What is this starting point? It begins in our relationships. No matter what may seem to stand between you and the person, the Holy Spirit has the power to change your mind about them. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your eyes and ears. “Follow His light and see the world as He beholds it. Hear His Voice alone in all that speak to you.” (W.PII.3.4:3-4) Heaven is waiting for you. Will you take one step closer?