

MAN HAS A PROBLEM

The world is a mess:

Crime

Corruption

Scandals

Wars

Killings

Unfaithfulness

Selfishness

Abuse of all kinds

Human trafficking

Hatred

Deceit

Cheating

Lying

Stealing



What will fix it?

Some suggest we need more:

Money?



Government programs?

More politicians?



Education?



Religion



Laws, jails, police, armies?



We've had all that for hundreds of years and things aren't getting better.

According to God the problem is that man has a heart problem.

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”

Jeremiah 17:9

Mark 7 For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²² adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³ All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”



God points out the problem and offers a solution.

God says,

**“I will give you a new heart
and put a new spirit in you.”**

Ezekiel 36:26

Man has a broken relationship with God.

“All a man’s ways seem right to him.” Proverbs 16:2

Man can justify just about any kind of lifestyle in his own mind/heart but what is most important is how God sees our heart condition when we are separated from Him.

**The Bible points out man’s
conditon and consequences:
MAN**

**We are sinful; death
We have broken God’s laws; cursed
We are blind; live in darkness
We have lost our way; lost
We are spiritually dead; death
We are helpless to save
ourselves: without
hope or God in our
lives.**

GOD

**God is holy; without sin
God is the lawgiver
God-Jesus is the light
Jesus is the way, truth, life
Jesus is the source of life
Jesus is our help**

Man thinks he can patch up this relationship by:

MAN

We are sinful
We have broken God's laws
We are blind
We have lost our way
We are spiritually dead
We are helpless to save ourselves

BEING RELIGIOUS

DOING GOOD WORKS

*HAVING GOOD
MORALS*

GIVING MONEY

*GOING TO church
Temple, or mosque*

*We seek to earn God's
love and forgiveness
but we can't earn it.*

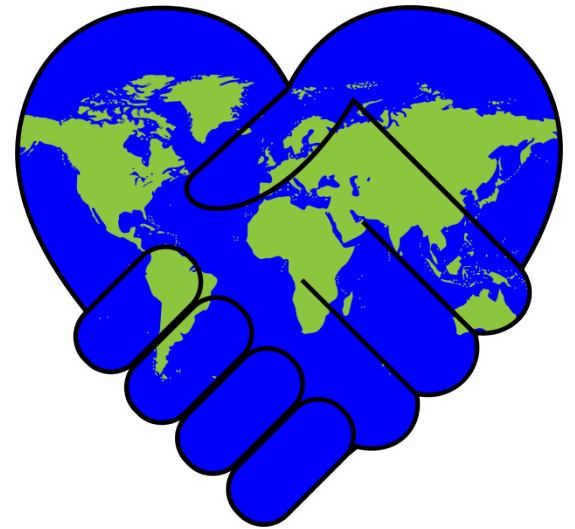
*Some feel it is
hopeless and don't
even try or they just
reject the idea of God
altogether.*

GOD

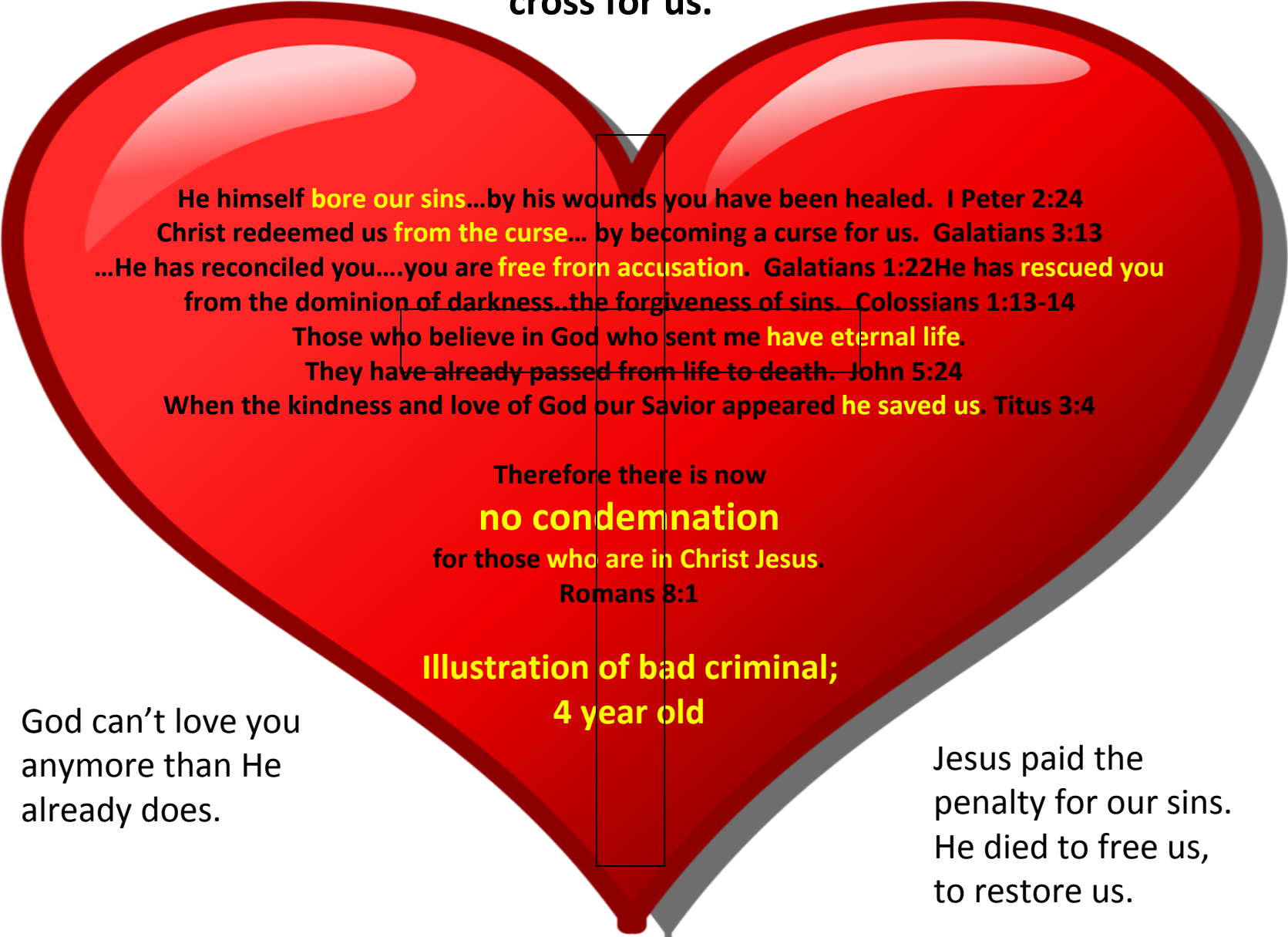
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John 3:16,17

For God *so loved* the world that *he gave* his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him *shall not perish but have eternal life*. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.



God can restore our heart and relationship through his amazing love. Jesus paid the consequences for us when he died on the cross for us.



He himself **bore our sins**...by his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2:24
Christ redeemed us **from the curse**... by becoming a curse for us. Galatians 3:13
...He has reconciled you....you are **free from accusation**. Galatians 1:22 He has **rescued you**
from the dominion of darkness...the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14
Those who believe in God who sent me **have eternal life**.
~~They have already passed from life to death.~~ John 5:24
When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared **he saved us**. Titus 3:4

Therefore there is now
no condemnation
for those **who are in Christ Jesus**.
Romans 8:1

**Illustration of bad criminal;
4 year old**

God can't love you
anymore than He
already does.

Jesus paid the
penalty for our sins.
He died to free us,
to restore us.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I Corinthians 15:3,4 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,



Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”



WHAT A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD LOOKS LIKE.

God Promises his followers:

We go from death



to LIFE



Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned. He has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

He promises us:

Forgiveness.

Freedom from accusation.

To be born into a new family; adoption.

To receive His Spirit in your life.

Citizenship in His Kingdom.

He will make us NEW from the inside out.

His understanding.

New Hope and Peace.

Possible Suffering/persecution.

He will never abandon us.

Resurrection to Eternal life.



He does not promise prosperity, good health, etc. John 16:33

WHAT DOES GOD ASK OF US?

2 THINGS

Love God with all our heart, soul and mind.

Love our neighbor as ourselves.

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus is our model in how to do those
two things.



We study the New testament to learn how to
do those two things. It's ALL about relationship.
We will spend our whole life learning how to do them.

God has put his love in our hearts. Romans 5:5

The love of Christ compels us... II Corinthians 5:14

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO ACCEPT GOD'S INVITATION

TO HAVE MY RELATIONSHIP
WITH HIM RESTORED AND RECEIVE A NEW HEART?

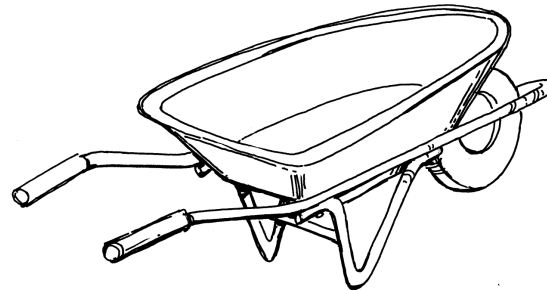
**“COME TO ME ALL OF YOU WHO ARE
TIRED AND WEARY and I will give you rest for your
souls”. Matthew 11:28,29.**



I accept His invitation by:

putting my faith or confidence in God.

John 3:16, listed earlier; There are 2 kinds of 'faith'.



And I need to love God, show him my gratitude.

Love God with all your heart, soul and mind.

Galatians 5:6....*the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

If you love me, obey me. John 14:15

Love will express itself by obeying Jesus in faith.

With faith and love I then need to repent. That means turn around and surrender my whole life to him. He is First!

“Repent....” Acts 2:38 I will trust and obey Him in everything he asks. He does what is for my best interest.



From this:



To this:



Then **I need to confess my faith.** Romans 10:9,10
That is verbally proclaiming my allegiance.



And I need to obey God and be baptized into Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20 ; Acts 2:38, 'Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins....'

This shows my choice of allegiance to Jesus for the rest of my life and my willingness to trust and obey him in all things.

The New Testament teaches that you can be baptized on any day, in any water deep enough and any other Disciple can baptize you.

When you are baptized in faith, love and obedience:

Your sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus. You are forgiven.

You receive God's Holy Spirit.

You become part of God's family.

You then seek to learn how to live as a child of God for the rest of your life as a follower of Jesus.

You will be raised in the resurrection to be with God for eternity. Revelation 21:1-4, 7



HOW GOD WORKS IN OUR LIFE ONCE WE ARE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS.

(A Christian is a person who is becoming what in God's eyes he/she already is.)

Hebrews 10:14 "Because by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy."

Made perfect in God's sight, Go on to grow in Christ



Our position; secure

A place; IN Jesus I John 5:20

A free gift; IN Jesus Eph 2:8,9

Unchanging; IN Jesus I John 5:13

All equal; IN Jesus Gal. 3:28

New person: IN Jesus, II Cor 5:17

Saved; IN Jesus; ready to go to heaven.



Our Condition; Changing

A Journey, Philipians 1:6

We work at improving it. I Tim 4:7,8

It is changing, II Cor 3:18

We are unequal. Hebrews 5:12-14

We have a new outlook; attitude Eph 4:22

We continue growing and maturing.

He gives us what we could never earn.

He helps us become what in His eyes we already are.

God accepts us as we are but He has no intention in leaving us that way.

Life's Journey OUT of Christ

Life OUTSIDE Christ
Facing Death
Cursed
Spiritually Dead
Lost in Darkness
Helpless to Save Ourselves

When we believe in Christ's sacrifice, love God, repent, confess, and are baptized into Jesus we crossover from death to life.

John 5:24



Life's Journey IN Christ

This white section represents our entire life in Christ. It shows our Position and Condition.

"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight."

Ephesians 1:4

Because of our position in Christ, we are now 100% perfect in God's sight for the rest of our LIFE. When we die, God has already made us ready for heaven. How is that?

It's because of our **POSITION**. Look at the bottle. Can you see the water inside without first looking through the bottle?



In much the same way, when God looks at us after we accept Christ, He sees us through Jesus. We are IN CHRIST and are cleansed by His blood—made blameless.

"And we all...are being transformed into His image." 2 Corinthians 3:18

Through our "transformation" we are becoming what in God's sight we already are. In our journey we will still face unexpected, unpleasant and even painful situations. There are hills to climb, valleys to cross, and storms to face.

Our **CONDITION** reflects the spiritual shape we are in: Strong or Weak. Everyone's journey is different but the destination is the same. A transformation is taking place.

"Aim for perfection." II Corinthians 13:11

Acting and Reacting Like Jesus.

Sin = "Missed the Mark"

In Christ, God is not counting men's sins against them.

II Corinthians 5:19



At Christ's 2nd coming...

We will be: Resurrected (Revelation 21)

AND

We will be: Finished Mature

(Colossians 3:1-4)

The covenant of marriage and the Covenant with God/Jesus

MARRIAGE	JESUS
I've found the one I've been looking for.	I've found what I've been looking for.
Love develops; I want to spend my life with you.	Love develops; I want to spend my life and eternity with Him.
A proposal is given and accepted.	We accept his offer; we repent and surrender to Him. He is FIRST in all.
We want to tell family and friends of the decision made.	We confess our faith in Him to others as we go through life.
We are united in marriage. The ceremony is an end and beginning.	We are united with Jesus in baptism; Baptism is an end and beginning.
The depth and quality depends on what both put into the marriage. There is no guarantee the other will be faithful.	The depth and quality depends on what I put in it. God will do 100% of what he promised. He is faithful.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOR?

**DO YOU LOVE GOD? ARE YOU GRATEFUL TO HIM FOR
WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU IN JESUS?**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO TURN AROUND AND SURRENDER
YOUR LIFE TO GOD?**

(This means rejecting all false 'gods' in your life.)

**ARE YOU WILLING TO CONFESS YOUR FAITH AND
ALLEGIENCE TO HIM?**

**ARE YOU WILLING TO BE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS
and live for and with Him for the rest of your life?**

Do you know others who need to hear this Good News?

God Leads a Pretty Sheltered Life!

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly – not with cringing shame, but with belligerence!

“How can God judge us? How can He know about suffering?” snapped a joking brunette. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. “We endured terror, beatings, torture, death!”

In another group, a black man lowered his collar. “What about this?” he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. “Lynched for no crime but being black! We suffocated in slave ships, been wrenched from loved ones, toiled till only death gave release!”

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He permitted in His world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred. Indeed, what did God know about what man had been forced to endure in this world? “After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life,” they said. So each group sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a black man, an untouchable from India, an “illegitimate,” a person from Hiroshima, a woman disfigured by her husband, and one from a Siberian slave camp. In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather simple: Before God would be qualified to be their judge He must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God “should be sentenced to live on earth –as a man!”

But, because He was God, they set certain safeguards to be sure He could not use His divine powers to help Himself:

- Let Him be born a Jew.
- Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted so that none will know who His father is really.
- Let Him champion a cause so just but so radical that it brings down upon Him the hate, condemnation, and eliminating efforts of every major traditional and established religious authority.
- Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard or smelled – let Him try to communicate God to men.
- Let Him be betrayed by His dearest friends.
- Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge.
- Let Him see what it is to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing.
- Let Him be tortured and let Him die! Let Him die the most humiliating death – with common thieves.
- As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people. When the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew ... God had already served His sentence!