

Humanity Was Created By God

1. Genesis 1:1,26,27: God is the CREATOR of humanity and all things. There is only ONE God who is three in existence: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

READ: Isaiah 40:21-31; Romans 1:18-32



Because God is the Creator of humanity, He inspires worship and expects obedience from all people in response to His love that was revealed through the gospel.

READ: Micah 6:8; John 4:23,24; 1 John 5:2

All People Have Sinned

2. Romans 3:9,10,23: All people have sinned against God. If one says that he or she has not sinned, then God says that person is a liar. Because of our voluntary and individual sin against God, we live in a state of separation from God, and thus we live in a state of condemnation.

READ: 1 John 1:8-10

Spiritual Condemnation In Sin

3. 1 John 3:4: SIN BY TRANSGRESSION: Sin is not

doing what God has commanded us to do in His word. Sin is also doing what God has told us not to do. Each person is personally accountable before God for his own sin.

READ: Ezekiel 18:4,20-24; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 John 1:5-10

4. James 4:17: SIN BY NEGLIGENCE: Sin is not doing what one knows to be defined as a biblical principle of moral good.

READ: Matthew 25:41-46; Galatians 6:10

All People Are Spiritually Dead In Sin

5. Isaiah 59:1,2: SEPARATION from God is the result of sin in our lives. In a state of being separated from our Creator, we must seek to be restored (reconciled) to God in order to be saved.

READ: Isaiah 1:15,16; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19



6. Romans 6:23: DEATH is the result of being separated from God because of sin. In sin, all people are in a state of condemnation before God.

READ: Romans 8:1; Galatians 3:22

SPIRITUAL DEATH

7. Romans 5:12: Spiritual death is separation from God because of sin. Spiritual death was introduced into the world by Adam because he was the first person to sin. Adam personally suffered the **guilt** of spiritual death for his own sin because he ate of the forbidden fruit. All people suffer the guilt of their own sin because all personally sin.

READ: Romans 3:9,10,23; Ephesians 2:1-3,12; James 1:14,15

PHYSICAL DEATH

8. 1 Corinthians 15:20-22: Physical death was introduced into the world when Adam and Eve were the first to sin personally by eating of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of

Eden. They were subsequently driven from the Tree of Life. The **consequence** of Adam's separation from the Tree of Life was that all humanity, as Adam's physical heritage, was also separated from this source of eternal life. Because all people are now separated from the Tree of Life, all of us must physically die.

READ: Genesis 3:22-24; Hebrews 9:27

9. Titus 2:11: The good news (gospel) of the grace of God was revealed to the world through the sacrificial offering of the incarnate Son of God on the cross of Calvary.

READ: John 1:1,2,14-17; 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-10

10. Galatians 2:16: Since it is not possible for any person to live without sinning, God, through His grace, sent His Son into this world as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Since it is not possible to atone for our sins with good works of merit, the Son of God had to make atonement for us on the cross of Calvary.



READ: Romans 3:20-31; 5:6-11

The Grace Of God Is Offered Free!

12. Ephesians 1:3: Since no one can be saved without God's grace, everyone must individually respond with obedient faith to the gospel (good news) in order to come **INTO CHRIST**. All those who respond by obedience to the gospel will receive all **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**, and thus salvation in Christ.

READ: Mark 16:15,16; Romans 6:3-6; Ephesians 2:1-10; 2 Peter 3:9

13. Ephesians 1:7: **REDEMPTION** from the bondage of sin by the **BLOOD** of Jesus is enjoyed by those who are **IN CHRIST**.

READ: Romans 3:24,25; 1 Corinthians 1:30; Hebrews 9:12-15

14. Colossians 1:13,14: FORGIVENESS of all our past sins, and the continual cleansing of sin in this life are **IN CHRIST**.

READ: Acts 5:31; 13:38; Colossians 2:13; 1 John 1:7-9

15. Romans 8:1: Those who are **IN CHRIST** are in a covenant relationship with God wherein there is **NO CONDEMNATION** because of the cleansing blood of Jesus.

READ: John 5:24; 1 John 3:14

16. 2 Corinthians 5:17: Because one is washed in the blood of Jesus, he or she is a **NEW CREATURE**, and in fellowship with all those who have been baptized **INTO CHRIST**.

READ: Romans 6:6; Ephesians 4:17-24

17. 1 John 5:11: ETERNAL LIFE is given to all new creatures who are **IN CHRIST**.

READ: Matthew 25:31-46; John 10:27,28

18. 2 Timothy 2:10: As a result of having all spiritual blessings that are **IN CHRIST**, one has **ETERNAL LIFE** in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

READ: Ephesians 1:9-13

Since all **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS** are for those who are **IN CHRIST**, then there are no spiritual blessings for those who are **OUTSIDE CHRIST**. Therefore, all people must come into Christ where they are washed of their sins, and thus have all spiritual blessing. In order to understand what God requires of our faith in response to His grace, we must consult His word for instructions.

READ: John 6:45; 8:31; 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 1:22-25

People Must Do What God Commands

19. Mark 1:14,15: God wants all people to believe in Jesus as His Son who was revealed for the salvation of all.

READ: Acts 2:22-36; John 8:24; 20:30,31; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 11:6

20. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9: Jesus is coming again! He will cast into destruction from the presence of God all those who have not **OBEYED THE GOSPEL** (the good news).

READ: Acts 17:30,31; 1 Peter 4:17



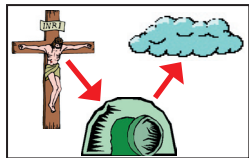
THEREFORE,

**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?
HOW CAN ONE OBEY THE GOSPEL?**

– The Gospel –

21. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: Verses 1,2: The **GOSPEL** is the historical event of the atoning sacrifice of the incarnate Son of God. This gospel was first **PREACHED** and **RECEIVED** by people on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. In obedience to this first announcement of the revealed grace of God, people were saved when they obediently responded.

Verses 3,4: The core of the gospel is the atoning **DEATH** of the Son of God on the cross for our sins. It is His **BURIAL** and **RESURRECTION** to



give us hope that we, too, in obedience to the gospel, will likewise be resurrected when Jesus comes again. Jesus was resurrected and ascended to the right hand of God where He was coronated King of kings. He is now our **MEDIATOR, HIGH PRIEST** and **KING**.

READ: Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 3:1; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:1

– Obedient Response To The Gospel –

22. Romans 6:3-6: Verse 3 : In order to come into a saving relationship with God in Christ, one must be baptized in obedience to the gospel. **Verses 4,5:** Since Jesus was crucified for us, we must be buried in a tomb of water in order to contact the cleansing blood of Jesus. We are then raised with Him to walk in the light as He is in the light. **Verse 6:** Before Jesus went to the tomb, He went to the cross. Before we go to the water in baptism, we must go to the cross with Jesus. One is thus crucified with Him as a penitent believer who will be raised with Him in newness of life.



READ: Romans 6:7-23; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:1-4; **RESEARCH:** Acts 2:41-47; 8:5-17; 8:30-39; 9:17,18; 10:34-48; 16:13-15; 16:25-34; 18:8; 19:5; 22:16; **STUDY: Faith:** John 8:24; Mark 16:15,16; Hebrews 22:6; **Repentance:** Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 2 Peter 3:9; **Confession:** Matthew 10:32,33; Romans 10:9,10; 1 Timothy 6:12; **Baptism:** Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; John 1:1-5; 1 Peter 3:21

Cost Of Obedience To The Gospel

23. Luke 14:25-35: Being a disciple of Jesus means living the example of Jesus for others. Before making a commitment to live the crucified life, one must consider seriously the sacrifices he or she must make in order to live in response to the gospel.

READ: Matthew 10:34-39; John 13:1-17; Philippians 3:7-14

Gospel Obedient Added To The Church

24. Matthew 16:18,19: During His earthly ministry, Jesus prophesied that He would build His church of obedient disciples on the fact that they would believe that He was the Christ and Son of God.

READ: John 14:15; 15:13

25. Acts 2:36-47: Thousands obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost when the kingdom reign of Jesus was first announced on that day. God added to the fellowship of His people those who obeyed the gospel by immersion into Christ. The church of Christ began when penitent believers were added by God to the body of believers after they were immersed for remission of their sins.

READ: Acts 5:14; Galatians 3:26-29

Church Of Gospel-Obedient Believers

Gospel Identity

26. Romans 16:16: There is no specific name given to the fellowship of God's people. Christians are blessed by God with unity because of their common obedience to the gospel. They are one universal fellowship as the church of Christ.

READ: Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:19; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 5:2,3

Gospel Covenant

27. 1 Corinthians 12:12: Those who are added by God to the one universal body of Christ are identified with names and phrases that explain who and what they are in their covenant relationship with God.

READ: Acts 11:26; Romans 1:7; 8:16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:1; 5:8; Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Peter 2:5,9,17; 4:16

Gospel Worship

28. John 4:21-24: In contrast to traditional religionists who seek to worship God according to their own desires and traditions, Christians seek to worship God according to the guidance of His word.

READ: Mark 7:1-9; Acts 17:23-31; Romans 10:2,3; Colossians 2:23



Gospel Fellowship

29. Romans 12:1,2: In giving their lives daily as a sacrifice in service to the reigning King Jesus, Christians **sing spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16), **pray in thanksgiving** (Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17), **give to others** (Galatians 6:10), **assemble together** (Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Corinthians 16:19), **fellowship with one another around the Supper of the Lord** (Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-23), **teach** the word of God (Acts 2:41; 5:42), and **preach the gospel to the world** (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:4).

READ: 1 Corinthians 10:31; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 3:17

Gospel Ministries

30. Mark 10:42-45: Christians are servants to one another and their communities. As servants to others, they seek to be the spirit of Jesus Christ wherever they live. Some are evangelists who preach the gospel to the lost (2 Timothy 4:2,5). Some are shepherds who care specifically for the flock of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 5:2,3). Some are in special ministries of service (Acts 6:1-7; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8-12). All are servants to everyone (Galatians 6:10; James 1:27).

READ: Luke 22:24-30; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 16:15,16

Gospel Mission

31. Matthew 28:19,20: Every disciple has a mission to proclaim the good news to the world, for they realize that only through faith and obedience to the gospel of Jesus can one be saved.

READ: Mark 16:15,16; Acts 5:42; 4:12,20; 8:4; 2 Timothy 4:1,2

Gospel Living

32. 2 Corinthians 4:15: Christians minister to others because Jesus ministered to them in delivering them from the bondage of sin. The grace by which they were delivered from the condemnation to come motivates them to serve and

preach the gospel.

READ: Matthew 7:15-23; 24:31-41; 2 Corinthians 5:11; 1 John 4:19

Gospel Hope

33. Revelation 14:13: Christians have been saved by the grace of God, and thus their salvation is not based on any self-sanctifying meritorious good works, or a supposed perfect keeping of any law.

READ: Romans 3:20; 1 Corinthians 3:8,14; Ephesians 2:4-10; Philippians 2:12,13; Colossians 2:18; 3:23,24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

INVITATION OF JESUS

34. Matthew 11:28-30: Jesus offers the opportunity to every person to come to Him for the redemption that He offered on the cross. God is not willing that any person should perish, and thus, He seeks to bring people into His eternal presence through their obedient response to the sacrificial offering of His Son on the cross.



READ: John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 3:20

Group Review Discussion Questions

[After reading the text of this bookito, answer the following questions in a discussion group with others.]

1. Why does God have the right to demand obedience from those He created?
2. Because we have the freedom to make our own moral decisions, why will we be held accountable for our sins?
3. In what two general areas do all people sin?
4. Why does sin separate one from God?
5. Why do all people since Adam not suffer from the spiritual death that Adam suffered because of his own sin?
6. Why is physical death a consequence of Adam's sin?
7. Why is the phrase "in Christ" so significant in the Christian's life?
8. What spiritual blessings, if any, lie outside Christ?
9. What is the gospel?
10. What is the result of one's obedience to the gospel?
11. How does the gospel define what the church is?
12. What is the motivation for Christians preaching the gospel to the world?

13. Why are meritorious good works unable to sanctify one of sin?
 14. Why is it not possible for people to be saved against their own will?
 15. How, or through what means, can one come to Jesus?

ABBREVIATIONS

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mic**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

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