

GOD'S LOVE

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1. Describe the main characteristics of love, as it is portrayed by television programs, movies, and songs on the radio. _____

2. How is the concept of love in the question above different from the concept of love in I Corinthians 13:4-8?

What do you think has most influenced your own concept of love?:
a) the society that you live in b) the Word of God?

3. How much does God love you, according to John 3:16?

4. Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Why do you think that most people are not experiencing this fullness of life?

God loves us more than we could ever imagine. He desires that we live a full life in fellowship with Him. Unfortunately, we have placed ourselves in a situation that keeps us from experiencing the fullness of life that He wants us to enjoy. How did this come about? Find out in the next lesson....

MAN'S PROBLEM.

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God loves us so much, but we are not able to fully enjoy His love. Why not? Let's look at some Bible verses that can help us to understand what happened.

1. How is sin described in the following verses?

Isaiah 53:6 _____
I John 3:4 _____
James 4:17 _____

2. Read the verse, then answer the question.

Romans 6:23. What is a result of sin? _____
Romans 3:23. What is another result of sin? _____
Do you know someone who has never sinned? Y/N
Have you ever sinned? Y/N
II Thessalonians 1:8-9. What will be the final result of sin?

3. Read Galatians 5:19-21. Is this similar to the way things are today in the world? If so, how? _____

4. According to Ecclesiastes 11:9, what will happen to you if you simply do whatever you please? _____

Why do you think that most people do not fear the judgment of God?

The Bible teaches us that everyone has sinned, and that sin has caused a separation between us and God. We cannot do anything on our own to get back to God, but God has done something for us! Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6) We will study more about this only way to return to God in the next lesson, **GOD'S SOLUTION**.

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GOD'S SOLUTION

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In the first lesson we talked about GOD'S LOVE, and in lesson two we looked at what the Bible teaches about MAN'S PROBLEM. In this lesson we will see that Jesus Christ is GOD'S SOLUTION for the problem of sin.

1. According to John 14:6, how many ways are there to enter into a right relationship with God? _____

2. In John 10:30 Jesus said, "*I and the Father are one.*" Then, in verse 33 of the same chapter, the Jews wanted to stone Jesus to death because they were upset about who He claimed to be.

What did Jesus say in verse 30? _____

Who did Jesus claim to be? _____

3. Jesus commanded his disciples in Mark 16:15 to preach the Gospel to all the world. The word "Gospel" in the New Testament means *good news*. The Apostle Paul summarizes this message of good news in I Corinthians 15:3-5. According to these verses,

What is the Gospel? _____

Why is this such good news for us? _____

4. The Apostle Peter also wrote about the Gospel in I Peter 3:18.

Why did Jesus die on the cross? _____

5. John 3:16, one of the best-known verses in the Bible, helps us to understand the significance that the Gospel has for each one of us:

Whom does God love? _____

How has God shown his love for you? _____

How can you receive eternal life? _____

What will happen to those who do not believe in Jesus? _____

Jesus is the only way for sinful man to return to a right relationship with God. When anyone believes in Him, they have eternal life... So what does it mean to believe? In our final lesson, **MAN'S REPOSE**, we will see how to believe in Jesus and pass from death to eternal life.

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MAN'S RESPONSE

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In the previous lessons we have seen that God loves us, but because of our sin we cannot fully experience that love. Furthermore, the final consequence of our sin will be eternal separation from God. But thanks be to God, because He has provided us with a way to be saved from our sin and to be restored to a right relationship with Him... through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, a way is useful to us only if we use it.

1. The Apostle Paul wrote about the way to God in Ephesians 2:8-9.

How are we saved? _____

How are we not saved? _____

Why can't we earn our way to heaven by doing good works? _____

2. Jesus taught about the way to God in John 5:24.

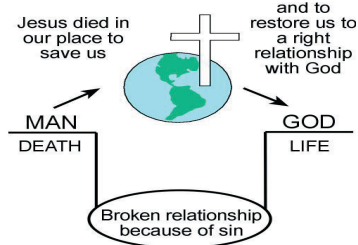
How can a person pass from spiritual death to eternal life? _____

3. John also wrote about the way to God in John 1:12.

What does it mean to *believe*? _____

4. Jesus gives a personal invitation to believers in Revelation 3:20. Using the same illustration that Jesus used, explain how you can receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. _____

5. Study the following diagram. Can you explain it? Which side of the cross are you on? If you are on man's side, is there a reason not to cross over to God's side right now?



To receive Christ means that...

- I recognize before God that I have sinned and separated myself from Him... and that I don't want to continue on that way.
- I believe that Jesus took my place and died for my sins.
- I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that He now offers me a new life.
- I receive the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior, trusting that He alone is able to save me. I can do nothing myself to help earn eternal life.
- I now desire to live my life in obedience to God.

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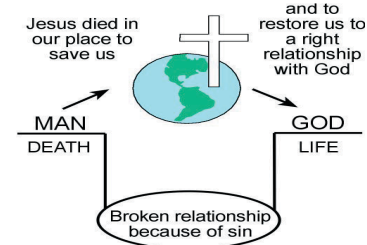
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