



Who and what is God?

1. God is Holy: righteous, morally & spiritually perfect, totally set apart from sin. *1 Samuel 2:2, There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides You.*
2. God is love. He loves each of us, created in His image, with an unconditional, sacrificial love. *1 John 4:8, anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*
Nothing you do will ever change God's love for you. It is unconditional.
3. God is a just Judge. *James 4:12a, There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.*

Yours and my miserable condition:

1. We are totally depraved (morally corrupt) by the Fall. *Romans 3:10, as it is written, "None is righteous, no not one".* A small list of our sins: pride, dishonesty, bitterness, hatred, envy, jealousy, stealing, cursing, lust, immorality, idolatry, indulgence, unbelief, lack of discipline, impure thoughts, covetousness, selfishness, gossip, criticism, complaining, disrespect, laziness, rebellion.
2. We inherited sin from Adam. *Romans 5:12, Therefore just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*
3. Our nature causes us to sin. *Psalm 51:5, Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
4. The world teaches & influences us to sin. *James 4:4, you adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world means enmity (hostility) with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

5. We don't know the half of it. The unsaved man cannot see his sins. We have a mountain of sin on our account. *Isaiah 64:6, But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities (sins), like the wind, have taken us away.*
6. **We tend to compare ourselves to others but that's not what God does. You having less sin than the next guy is irrelevant.** *Jeremiah 17:9, the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

How does our sin affect our relationship with God?

1. **Sin separates us from a holy, righteous, perfect God.** *Isaiah 59:2, but your iniquities (sins) have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*
2. *Psalm 7:11, God judges the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*
3. Sin depravity (moral corruption) carries a spiritual death sentence. *Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
4. *Romans 1:18, for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*
5. God's just character requires death, not leniency. *Romans 1:32 speaking of the unrighteous, though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*
6. The death sentence is separation from God. **"Here and now" life without God is a rough life. We try to escape the guilt and noisy soul through drugs, alcohol, ungodly relationships, more sin... Eternity without God is a place called Hell.** *Matthew 25:34, 41, Then the King will say to those on*

- his right, "Come you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."*
7. *2 Thessalonians 1:9, they shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*
8. **But God is also merciful. He wants to rescue us from our miserable condition, both "here and now" and for all eternity.** *Ephesians 2:4-5, But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses (sins), made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved...*
9. **Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with a creator God – fractured by our sin, restored by a Savior Jesus.** *John 15:13, Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

What is a Savior?

1. Someone who takes our spiritual death sentence in our place. *1 Peter 2:24, He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. Isaiah 53:5, he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*
2. *1 John 4:14, and we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.*

What qualifies Jesus Christ to be our Savior?

1. **He is God the Son, infinite in love & power.** *Titus 2:11, 13b, for the grace (power) of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all*

people... the appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

2. He is the only One with power to conquer sin, death & Hell. As God, He has the power to conquer the death sentence of everyone. *Revelation 1:17-18, when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."*
3. **God the Son is holy. He would never sin. He does not have a death sentence of His own.** *Hebrews 4:15, For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
4. **How can Jesus be God the Son and never sin? He was born of God the Holy Spirit, not the seed of Adam.** *Matthew 1:18, now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.*
5. **What is the most significant event in all of human history? What we celebrate as Easter. The Cross, three days before, is a close second.** *1 Corinthians 15:3-4, For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.*

What does Jesus offer?

1. **To make an exchange: our death sentence for His righteous standing with God the Father.** *2 Corinthians 5:21, for our sake he (God the Father) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
2. **God's justice and mercy are a contradiction were it not for Jesus on the Cross.** Jesus covered God's justice so that we could

have God's mercy. Jesus' righteousness reconciles our relationship with God the Father **forever.**

3. A new nature, a new perspective, a "born again" new life. *2 Cor 5:17, Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come.*

Why does Jesus do this?

1. Love & obedience to God the Father.
2. Selfless love and compassion for others.

John 15:9-10, As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you... If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

How do we take Jesus up on His offer?

1. **Acknowledge our sins and wrong responses.** *Psalms 51:3, for I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*
2. **Godly sorrow our sins and wrong responses.** *2 Corinthians 7:10, for godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*
3. **Our eyes of faith are on God.** *Isaiah 6:5, And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Hebrews 12:2a, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...*
4. **Our heart's posture is kneeling.** *Rev 1:17a, when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*
5. **Lord help me: an expression of need, trust, dependence, desperation.** *Matthew 15:25 (Canaanite woman with daughter oppressed by demon), But she came and knelt before him, saying "Lord, help me." Acts 16:30-31, Then he (Philippian jailer) brought them (Paul and Silas) out and said, "Sirs, what must*

I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

6. **God wants our heart!** *Jeremiah 29:13, you will seek me and find me (God), when you seek me with all your heart. It is more than words! It is tangible actions and changes! James 2:17, ... faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

What are the five "alones" of salvation and what do they mean?

1. Scripture alone: everything about salvation is based solely on God's Word, the Bible.
2. Free gift (by faith) alone: salvation is solely through our faith not our righteous works. *Ephesians 2:8-9, For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is a gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
3. Grace alone: it is all the undeserved work of God's power (enablement).
4. Christ alone: it is all through Christ's work on the cross and resurrection.
5. Glory of God alone: it is all for God's glory.

What happens at salvation?

1. The Holy Spirit comes into our heart. *John 14:16, 17b, I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper (Holy Spirit), to be with you forever. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* We receive a new nature. We become a new creation, a "born again" new life.
2. The old nature is still there competing for control. *Romans 7:19-20, for I (Apostle Paul) do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

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