

Between You and God, How is it?

1. God Loves You.

a. Promise of Eternal Life

Titus 1:2 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.”

John 11:25-26 Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life: He that believes in Me, though He were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives & believes in Me shall never die. Believe you this?”

1John 2:25 “And this is the promise that He has promised us even eternal life.”

b. God Loves you.

John 3:16 To have faith in Jesus Christ means to believe He is God (John 10:30), that He saves you by His crucifixion and that you receive the gift of eternal life (John 5:24; 6:40; 17:30).

Jesus demonstrated sacrificial love for us by dying for our sins, making possible our forgiveness and restoring us to fellowship with the Father.

1John 3:16 “We know the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” 1John 4:19 “We love Him because He first loved us.”

c. God is Love. 1John 4:8 “He that loves not knows not God; for God is love.”

All of life is touched by His continuing love. Until we come to understand & believe at our most innermost level that God is love, we will struggle with trusting Him, yielding to Him, obeying Him & serving Him wholeheartedly.

2. We have Sinned.

a. Our Lost Condition: Unrighteous -. Separated from a Holy God forever.

Rom 3:10-12 “As it is written, ‘There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable;

there is none that does good, no not one.’ V. 13-16

*** All sin eventually results from a rebellious attitude that will not honor the Lord for who He is.**

Rom 3:17-18 “And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Eph 2:1-3 “And you (who come to faith in Jesus Christ) has He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins. In time past, you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we had our conduct in times past in the lusts of our flesh.. & were by nature children of wrath, even as others.

Before we believe in Jesus, we are dead in our spirit to a God who is Spirit, blind to His ways, unable to communicate with Him & eternally separated from Him because of our sinful nature. There is nothing we can do to change this but we try.

b. Mankind tries to keep the Law.

Rom 3:19 “Now we know that what things so ever the law says, it says to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” God gave His people the Law so they could understand their need for grace, a Savior, how great a gift Jesus has given us, not so they could try to earn the way. V. 20 “Therefore by the deeds of the law shall no flesh

be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Rom 4:5 “But to him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

3. God Himself gave the way to save us from the penalty of sin.

a. A debt we owe.

Rom 3:21-23 “But now the righteousness of God without the law is made known being witnessed by the law and the prophets. Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all & upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For we have all sinned & come short of the glory of God.”

That is why sin is a debt that we owe: because we have broken the law against God. Rom 5:12.

b. Jesus alone lived a sinless life and could pay our sin debt in full. 2Cor 5:21.

1Pet 1:18-21 “You know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver & gold, from your useless conduct received by tradition from your fathers (ancestors) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish & without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was revealed in these last days for you. Who by Him do believe in God that raised Him up from the dead & gave Him glory; that your faith & hope might be in God.”

Phil2:7-8 The Lord Jesus left His magnificent throne in heaven, where he is surrounded with praise & worship & chose the limitation, suffering & lowliness of a human body just so He could show us his great love for us & save us to have His everlasting life.

1Pet 3:18 “For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit.”

*** So Christ, knowing every sin we would ever commit, took our record of wrongs upon Himself & wiped it all out with His own sinless blood. No one can condemn us because our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ paid the penalty in full. Jesus atoned for our sin once for all.**

4. Repentance Toward God & Faith Toward Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21)

a. Come with a repentant heart.

Acts 3:19 “Repent you therefore & be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” Peter & John had just healed the blind man.

Peter pointed out that the people of Israel were crippled in their souls. Their healing would come the same way as for the disabled man – “through faith in His name.”

b. Come with faith in Jesus Christ.

John 3:36 “He that believes on the Son has everlasting life: and He that believes not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 5:24 “Verily, verily I say to you, He that hears My word & believes on Him that sent Me has everlasting life & shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life.

Acts 16:31 “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, and your house.”

c. Believe and Receive the gift of eternal life.

Rom 10:9 “That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & shall believe in your heart that

God had raised Him from the dead you shall be saved.”

Salvation can only come through faith in

Jesus Christ. You confess it with your mouth to put your faith into action and to affirm that you are accountable to Jesus Christ, who is now your Lord. You believe in your heart that He triumphed over death. This means He not only has the ability to save you but He has the authority to lead you & the wisdom to transform you.

Rom 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Jesus is our ultimate, final & complete sacrifice & salvation is available to whoever puts his faith in Christ, saved by grace.

Eph 2:4-5 “But God who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us. Even when we were dead in sins has made us alive, new together with Christ; by grace are you saved:”

* Only one way to be reconciled with Almighty God: It is a new spirit & a new life – which is Christ’s gift to us when we believe in Him as our Savior. V. 6-9 “And has raised us up together & made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are you saved through faith, & not of yourselves: It is a gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

*** If we were saved by our actions: doing good works, keeping the commandments & refraining from sin: we would always be in danger of losing our salvation whenever we stumbled. However, our salvation is a free gift & is secure in what Christ has done for us. Our salvation therefore magnifies the awesome love & grace of God alone. He blesses us because of His goodness.**

V. 10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. Only by abiding in God, can He fulfill His purpose for us.

5. Grow in Faith; Grow in Relationship with God.

2Pet 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever.” Amen.

a. Go to Church. Heb 10: 23-25 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith.. Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: & so much the more, as you see the day approaching.”

b. Pray and Confess sin: Eph 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

c. Read and Obey the Bible: 2Tim 2:15 “Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of God.”

d. Love God and love others: Rom 13:8 “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another, for he that loves another has fulfilled the law.”

e. Tell the Gospel: Phil 2:15-16 “That you may be blameless and innocent, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked & perverse nation among whom you shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.” Mat 24:14 “And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.”

f. Live for the glory of God. 1Pet 1:7 “That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of

gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

1Pet 5:10-11 “But the God of all grace, who has called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, confirm, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”