

Are some  ?

YOUR RESPONSE - Although Jesus has done everything for you to be reconciled to God, you still have a choice to make – (a) decline His gift, or (b) gladly receive it. We have explained: your own strength, your good works, religion, your giving... these can never build a bridge to God, neither can they get you to Heaven.

Romans 10:13 says, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”* That is a direct promise from God!

We encourage you to call out to God to claim this promise today. Only by crossing the bridge – Jesus Christ – can you have a relationship with God, and have eternal life in Heaven. Crossing the bridge is as simple as A-B-C:

ADMIT you are a sinner and need to repent and turn from your sin. (Acts 3:19)

BELIEVE that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose again from the dead to cover your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

CONFESS you need a Saviour and invite Jesus Christ to be the Lord over your life. (Romans 10:9)

If you will talk to God today and confess that you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive your sins, and turn to Jesus alone to be your Saviour, God promises to save you from a place called Hell (Luke 16:23), and instead, you will live forever with Him in Heaven (John 14:1-3).

We would love to talk more with you about what you've read here – please contact us today... we would love to help you discover the abundant life that can be found in Jesus Christ.

Hi, at Good Shepherd Baptist Church we have a vision to help our community, to restore those who are hurting, and provide a church home to those seeking an oasis. You'll be amongst genuine friends who wish to share your journey, and help you find Bible answers to life's questions. Please be my guest this coming Sunday... we have a seat reserved for you, and I look forward to welcoming you soon.

How are your relationships?



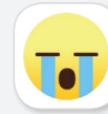
Best Friend



Boss



Grandma



Sister



Partner



In-Laws

Have you ever had a relationship fail? A broken relationship hurts, is painful, and can happen to anyone. Friends leave... partners drift apart... circumstances of life damage friendships.

Not only are broken relationships painful, but they are discouraging also. And when relationships cannot be repaired or restored, we can become cynical and heavy with hurt over time.

On the bright side, God doesn't want us to go through life carrying broken relationships. Especially our relationship with Him. Maybe you haven't really given it a thought, but God actually desires a relationship with you.

The Bible tells of God's love for you:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
– John 3:16.

Let's check out how God loves you and wants this loving, lasting relationship with you...

OUR PROBLEM - To get to the good part, we first need to understand we have a problem. Have you ever wondered why, if He loves us, everyone in the world doesn't automatically enjoy a relationship with God?

The answer is sin... it is sin that separates us from God. Sin is any wrongdoing / thoughts that breaks God's laws. The Bible shows us we are born with a sinful nature and are therefore spiritually separated from God.

The Bible explains our sin nature in Romans 5:12, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."*

No one had to teach us how to sin because sinning comes naturally to us. Whether ignorant or deliberate, we all sin all the time.



So, sin separates us from God... sin creates a gulf between us and God so that we cannot reach Him. Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

The bad news is, our sin has a penalty. Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death..."* The 'wage' or payment for our sin is death – eternal separation from God... in Hell.

The good news is, there is a way out... and we'll come to that later. But first, let's check if we can get to God on our own.

OUR ANSWER - Many people think that they can pay the price/wages for their sin by doing good works or going to the church/temple/mosque. Some believe donating their time and money to welfare projects will buy them favour with God, or a way into Heaven. Although these may appear feasible or logical, the Bible specifically tells us that we cannot earn our way into Heaven.

God's Word says, *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* - Ephesians 2:8-9.



Previously, we learnt that the payment for sin is death. So, good works, religion, philanthropy, or any other acts of kindness will not work. Although it is great to contribute to the welfare of others or simply do good, these things cannot satisfy the payment that God has set for sin.

GOD'S ANSWER - Why does 'OUR ANSWER' fail? Because it doesn't deal with our sin problem. In His mercy, God the Heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus Christ to Earth over 2,000 years ago, where Jesus lived a sinless life and chose to die on a cross for all of mankind.

Although we deserve eternal death for our sin, Jesus paid our debt when He died for our sin. Romans 5:8 says, *"But*

God commendeth (proved) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus laid down His life to become the Bridge between sinful mankind and our Holy God. His love for us did that!



And now, Jesus offers us the ultimate gift! The second half of Romans 6:23 reads, *"... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

This free offer of eternal life in Heaven came into effect when Jesus died for us. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus became the penalty for our sin... because He paid our debt, we do not need to pay for our sin. And we now can be reconciled to God if we respond...