



EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY

STRAIGHT ANSWERS TO ULTIMATE QUESTIONS IN A RELAXED SETTING



Introduction

Why ask the question in this way?

We are accountable to God.

We don't always view ourselves accurately.

WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF ME?

1. I am created

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27).

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

a. Beginning . . . but no end

"You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . ." (Psalm 139:13-14a).

"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).

b. Weak & Dependent

"The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything" (Acts 17:24).

c. Responsibility & Purpose

". . . that the whole world may be held accountable to God" (Romans 3:19).

". . . bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory" (Isaiah 43:6b-7).

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

2. I am sinful

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17)

"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight . . ." (Psalm 51:4).

"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one" (Romans 3:10-12).

3. I need mercy

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me” (Psalm 51:1-3).

THE “RIDDLE” OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:6-7a).

How is it that God is merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity and sin, and yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished?

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Week 1 (Preview Dinner) – *How Good Is Good Enough?*

Week 2 (Oct. 26th) – *What is God Like?*

Week 3 (Nov. 2nd) – *What Does God Think of Me?*

Week 4 (Nov. 9th) – *Who is Jesus, and What Has He Done for Us?*

Week 5 (Nov. 16th) – *What Must I Do to Be Saved?*