

QUESTION: Don't all religions lead to God?

ANSWER: No, Jesus Himself said there is NO OTHER WAY to come to God except through Him, and that if you reject Him, you are rejecting God the Father. Since **all other religions** say there are OTHER ways to reach God, or MANY ways to reach heaven, **they CANNOT all be RIGHT**. If they contradict the words of Jesus Himself, then either Jesus is right and they are wrong, or Jesus is a liar and a fraud, and they are right! You must choose to either ACCEPT Jesus Christ as the ONLY WAY to God, or REJECT Him, and suffer the consequences. Because Jesus is the God-Man, **He is the ONLY mediator between God and humanity**, and RECEIVING HIM and believing in His DEATH on the CROSS is the ONLY way to receive ETERNAL LIFE and forgiveness of your sins. So, rather than believing in a man-made religious system of trying to reach God, the Bible tells us the GOOD NEWS of **God coming down from heaven to REACH US** in the person of Jesus Christ.

In fact, ACCEPTING Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is NOT believing in a religion. The world's religions are all **man-made ways** to try to reach God or earn their way to heaven, but TRUE Christianity is a **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with the Lord Jesus Christ**, who is God in human flesh. But beware! There are also false religions and cults that CLAIM to believe in Jesus! They may use the name of Jesus Christ, but they are still religions that teach you that you can WORK your way to heaven. Be sure that you are trusting in Jesus Himself, and what He did on the cross, to save you, and NOT a religious system of works built around things ABOUT Jesus. You don't want Jesus to have to say to you, "**I NEVER KNEW YOU**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

- **Matthew 7:21-23** "NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who DOES the WILL of My Father in heaven. MANY will say to Me in that day, "**Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (preached) in Your name**, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, '**I NEVER KNEW YOU**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
- **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter by the NARROW gate; for WIDE is the gate and **BROAD is the way that leads to DESTRUCTION**, and there are MANY who go in by it. Because NARROW is the gate and DIFFICULT is the way which leads to LIFE, and there are FEW who find it."
- **John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, '**I AM the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. NO ONE comes to the Father** except THROUGH ME.'"
- **Acts 4:10-12** "Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the NAME of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom GOD RAISED from the DEAD, by Him this man stands here before you whole..... **Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is NO OTHER NAME under heaven** given among men by which we must be saved."
- **Ephesians 4:14-15** "That we should no longer be CHILDREN, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (teachings), by the **TRICKERY of MEN (man-made religion)**, in the cunning CRAFTINESS by which **they lie in wait to DECEIVE**, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into **Him who is the head - Christ.**"
- **Colossians 2:8-10** "**Beware** lest anyone **CHEAT you** through **philosophy and empty DECEIT**, according to the tradition of MEN, according to the basic PRINCIPLES of the WORLD, and NOT according to Christ. For **in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form**; and you are COMPLETE in HIM, who is the head of all principality and power."
- **I Thessalonians 1:9-10** "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you TURNED to God from IDOLS **to serve the LIVING**

- and TRUE God**, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He RAISED from the DEAD, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."
- **Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that **SEEMS RIGHT** to a man, but the end results are the ways of death."
 - **I John 5:20** "And we know that the **SON of GOD** has come, and has given us an understanding, that we may KNOW HIM who is true, and we are in **Him who is true**, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the TRUE GOD and ETERNAL LIFE."
 - **I Timothy 2:5** "For there is ONE GOD, and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man CHRIST JESUS."

Jesus is different from any other "founder of a religion" in that He is the only One who was resurrected from the dead! Buddha is dead and buried, Mohammad is dead and buried, Joseph Smith is dead and buried. **NONE of them, nor any of the "gods" of other religions**, such as the Hindu gods, **EVER gave their life for you**, or suffered and **bled and DIED for YOUR SINS** to be forgiven, in order to give you eternal life - only Jesus did!

GOD wants to have a relationship with YOU - Both now, and for all eternity!
Jesus said, "I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE; NO ONE can come to the Father, except BY ME." John 14:6

If you want to KNOW GOD and have real meaning in your life; if you are unsure of what will happen to you when you die, or are afraid you will not spend eternity in Heaven, there's **GOOD NEWS** for you! The Bible, God's word, tells us in John 3:16 that "**God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOEVER BELIEVES in HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE.**" Because **God loves you so much**, He made a WAY for you to be saved from your sins so that you could have a relationship with Him. He sent **His Son, Jesus Christ**, to die on the cross and **TAKE the PUNISHMENT for YOUR SINS** so that you could be REDEEMED from sin, receive NEW LIFE, and spend eternity with Him. Jesus said, "**.....Unless a person is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (John 3:3). Salvation does **NOT** come by joining a church, following a certain religion, doing good works, or by living a moral life and hoping your good deeds will outweigh your sins. **The Bible says we are ALL SINNERS and there is only ONE WAY** to become a child of God and to receive salvation and eternal life in heaven: **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN by ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST as YOUR LORD and SAVIOR.** "**But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name.**" (John 1:12) "**If you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD, and shall believe in your HEART that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU SHALL BE SAVED.**" (Romans 10:9)

Pray this prayer, and RECEIVE Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today:
Almighty God, I realize that I am a sinner, and that I cannot save myself. I am willing to REPENT and TURN AWAY from my sins, and accept the WAY that You have provided for me to be saved - JESUS! I believe in my heart that You, Lord JESUS are the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD. I believe that You, JESUS, are the sinless Son of God who PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS as You shed Your BLOOD for me. I believe You were RAISED from the DEAD - You are ALIVE and able to save me. I RECEIVE You as my Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take CONTROL of my life!

If you have prayed this prayer **sincerely from your heart**, then the Bible says you are now a child of God! You have been **born again**, you have eternal life, and you have been SAVED from your sins (they are forgiven). God is now your Heavenly Father, and His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, is living in you! (Romans 8:9) It is **the PERSON of Jesus Christ** that saves you, and your faith in Him, **NOT** any religious works or good deeds you may do. God says in His word, "For by **GRACE** you are 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)

QUESTION: I received some literature on "Inter-Faith" - so is it right or wrong to mingle with different religions or congregations? Why can't there just be one God we all worship? Don't all of the children of God worship the same God? Isn't there good in all religions, such as teaching not to lie and steal, and so forth? Isn't that sufficient? This whole "seeking the right religion" thing is so confusing, and can be mentally draining. Please help!

ANSWER: There are several parts to this question so let's break it up and take one at a time:

(1.) Why can't there just be one God we all worship? There is **only one true God**, but many people refuse to worship Him as He has commanded. They are full of pride and self-righteousness, and **they want to do it their own way, and not God's way**. Jesus Himself said there is **NO OTHER WAY** to come to God except through Him, and that **if you reject Him**, you are rejecting God the Father. Since **all other religions** say there are **OTHER** ways to reach God, or **MANY** ways to reach heaven, **they CANNOT all be RIGHT**. If they contradict the words of Jesus Himself, then either Jesus is right and they are wrong, or Jesus is a liar and a fraud, and they are right! **You must choose to either ACCEPT Jesus Christ as the ONLY WAY to God, or REJECT Him**, and suffer the consequences. Because Jesus is the God-Man, **He is the ONLY mediator between God and humanity**, and **RECEIVING HIM** and believing in His **DEATH** on the **CROSS** is the **ONLY** way to receive **ETERNAL LIFE** and forgiveness of your sins. So, rather than believing in a man-made religious system of trying to reach God, the Bible tells us the GOOD NEWS of God coming down from heaven to REACH US in the person of Jesus Christ.

In fact, **ACCEPTING** Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is **NOT** believing in a religion. The world's religions are all **man-made ways** to try to reach God or earn their way to heaven, but **TRUE** Christianity is **a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God in human flesh**. But beware! There are also false religions and cults that **CLAIM** to believe in Jesus! They may use the name of Jesus Christ, but **they are still religions that teach you that you can WORK your way to heaven**. Be sure that you are trusting in Jesus Himself, and what He did on the cross, to save you, and **NOT** a religious system of works built around things **ABOUT** Jesus. You don't want Jesus to have to say to you, **"I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"**

- **Matthew 7:21-23** "NOT everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **DOES** the **WILL** of My Father in heaven. **MANY** will say to Me in that day, **"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (preached) in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?"** And then I will declare to them, **"I NEVER KNEW YOU; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"**
- **Matthew 7:13-14** "Enter by the **NARROW** gate; for **WIDE** is the gate and **BROAD** is the way that leads to **DESTRUCTION**, and there are **MANY** who go in by it. Because **NARROW** is the gate and **DIFFICULT** is the way which leads to **LIFE**, and there are **FEW** who find it."
- **John 14:6** "Jesus said to him, **"I AM the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. NO ONE comes to the Father** except **THROUGH ME.**"
- **Acts 4:10-12** "Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the NAME of JESUS CHRIST of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom **GOD RAISED** from the **DEAD**, by Him this man stands here before you whole.....**Nor is there**

- salvation in any other, for there is **NO OTHER NAME** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- **Ephesians 4:14-15** "That we should no longer be CHILDREN, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (teachings), by the **TRICKERY of MEN (man-made religion)**, in the cunning CRAFTINESS by which **they lie in wait to DECEIVE**, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into **Him who is the head - Christ.**"
 - **Colossians 2:8-10** "**Beware** lest anyone **CHEAT you** through **philosophy and empty DECEIT**, according to the tradition of MEN, according to the basic PRINCIPLES of the WORLD, and NOT according to Christ. For **in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form**; and you are COMPLETE in HIM, who is the head of all principality and power."
 - **I Thessalonians 1:9-10** "For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you TURNED to God from IDOLS **to serve the LIVING and TRUE God**, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He RAISED from the DEAD, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."
 - **Proverbs 14:12** "There is a way that **SEEMS RIGHT** to a man, but the end results are the ways of death."
 - **I John 5:20** "And we know that the **SON of GOD** has come, and has given us an understanding, that we may KNOW HIM who is true, and we are in **Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the TRUE GOD** and ETERNAL LIFE."
 - **I Timothy 2:5** "For there is ONE GOD, and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man CHRIST JESUS."

Jesus is different from any other "founder of a religion" in that He is the only One who was resurrected from the dead! Buddha is dead and buried, Mohammad is dead and buried, Joseph Smith (founder of the Mormon religion) is dead and buried. The founders of the Watchtower Society in New York City (Jehovah's Witnesses) did not die for you, and they teach a "different Jesus" than the true Jesus of the Bible. **NONE of them, nor any of the "gods" of other religions**, such as the Hindu gods, **EVER gave their life for you**, or suffered and **bled and DIED for YOUR SINS** to be forgiven, in order to give you eternal life - only Jesus did! And the only way His death on the cross could pay for our sins is because **He is God in the flesh!** The cults who teach a "different Jesus" do not believe what the Bible teaches about Jesus being truly God and truly man at the same time, they believe He was a created being or just a good man, or whatever.

(2.) "So is it right or wrong to mingle with different religions or congregations? This whole "seeking the right religion" thing is so confusing, and can be mentally draining. Please help!" You can only **worship** with true Believers in Jesus Christ, but you can "mingle" with members of any other religious group in order to witness to them, and try to bring them to faith in Jesus. There are different "denominations" within true, orthodox Christianity, and we differ on some small points, but **in order to be truly "Christian" we must believe in the same major doctrines about God, Jesus, salvation, etc.** Some religions openly oppose Christ, but others are very subtle, sneaky and crafty, and they use language that sounds Christian, giving their "faith" a familiar sound. They mention Jesus, use a Bible, and hold a church service that looks and sounds a lot like us, but close biblical examination will expose their false gospel and their false Jesus. They preach another Jesus, and add their own twisted and unscriptural brand of thinking to what should be the simple truth of God's word. If such groups look and sound Christian, how can we know if they are preaching another gospel or another Jesus? Here are some false teachings to watch out for:

(a) If they teach salvation through anything other than the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Many groups say they believe in salvation through Jesus Christ, but they **ADD ON** some kind of works you must do. John 19:30, Acts 4:12, I Cor. 15:1-4 & 12-22, Eph. 1:12-14, Eph. 2:8-9, Acts 16:30-31, John 17:3-4, Heb. 12:2, Romans 10:9-10.

(b) If they refuse to teach and believe that Jesus is the eternal God come in the flesh (read the Gospel of John and the Book of I John).

(c) If they give more importance to the word and "wisdom" of man, and traditions of men, than to the word of God (I Corinthians 2:12-13). A sure sign that a group is a "cult" is if they have their own "scriptures" or "prophet" or "pope" whose words they consider as important, if not more so, than the Bible.

- **Matthew 15:3,6b & 9** "But He answered and said unto them, 'Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?' ".....Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition." "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

(c) If their leaders do not provide Christlike guidance through careful biblical instructions (I Timothy 4:6, Jude 4).

This doesn't have to be "mentally draining" if you just trust God and learn what His word says. We know that there are those who want to lead you into "another gospel" and "another Jesus", and the Bible tells us there will always be false prophets and false teachers. **What you need to do is just trust God and learn God's word so that you won't be deceived!** Here is the true "good news" or gospel of Christianity, and any other group, cult, religion or system of good works that does not teach this is false:

GOD wants to have a relationship with **YOU -**
Both now, and for all eternity!
Jesus said, "I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE;
NO ONE can come to the Father, except BY ME." John 14:6

If you want to KNOW GOD and have real meaning in your life; if you are unsure of what will happen to you when you die, or are afraid you will not spend eternity in Heaven, there's **GOOD NEWS** for you! The Bible, God's word, tells us in John 3:16 that "**God so LOVED the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOEVER BELIEVES in HIM should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE.**" Because **God loves you so much**, He made a WAY for you to be saved from your sins so that you could have a relationship with Him. He sent **His Son, Jesus Christ**, to die on the cross and **TAKE the PUNISHMENT for YOUR SINS** so that you could be REDEEMED from sin, receive NEW LIFE, and spend eternity with Him. Jesus said, "**.....Unless a person is BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**" (John 3:3). Salvation does **NOT** come by joining a church, following a certain religion, doing good works, or by living a moral life and hoping your good deeds will outweigh your sins. **The Bible says we are ALL SINNERS and there is only ONE WAY** to become a child of God and to receive salvation and eternal life in heaven: **YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN by ACCEPTING JESUS CHRIST as YOUR LORD and SAVIOR.**"But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on His name." (John 1:12) "**If you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD, and shall believe in your HEART that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU SHALL BE SAVED.**" (Romans 10:9). "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **you may KNOW that you have eternal life**, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God" (I John 5:13).

Pray this prayer, and RECEIVE Jesus Christ as your personal Savior today: Almighty God, I realize that I am a sinner, and that I cannot save myself. I am willing to REPENT and TURN AWAY from my sins, and accept the WAY that You have provided for me to be saved - JESUS! I believe in my heart that You, Lord JESUS are the CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD. I believe that You, JESUS, are the sinless Son of God who PAID the PENALTY on the CROSS for MY SINS as You shed Your BLOOD

for me. I believe You were RAISED from the DEAD - You are ALIVE and able to save me. I RECEIVE You as my Lord and Savior. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and take CONTROL of my life!

(3.) "Don't all of the children of God worship the same God?" This is sort of a "trick question." Yes, all the Children of God DO worship the same God, but, you see, not everyone on the earth is a child of God. You must receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior to become a child of God (being "born again"). If you have prayed this prayer on the page above **sincerely from your heart**, then the Bible says **you are now a child of God!** You have been **born again**, you have eternal life, and you have been **SAVED** from your sins (they are forgiven). God is now your Heavenly Father, and His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, has come to live in you! (Romans 8:9) It is **the PERSON of Jesus Christ** that saves you, and your faith in Him, **NOT** any religious works or good deeds you may do. God says in His word, "For by **GRACE** you are 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). As far as some people thinking we are all God's children and God is the Father of everyone, Jesus Himself told people who did **not** believe in Him that they had the devil for their "father", rather than God.

- **John 8:44** "You are of **YOUR father, the devil**, and the desires of **your father** you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar, and the father of it."
- **Galatians 3:26** "For **you are ALL SONS of GOD** through **FAITH in CHRIST JESUS.**"
- **II Corinthians 6:18** "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters", says the Lord Almighty."
- **John 1:12** "But **as many as RECEIVED Him**, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

(4.) "Isn't there good in all religions, such as teaching not to lie and steal, and so forth? Isn't that sufficient?" This is like the question many people ask, "I'm a good person.... won't God let me into heaven?" **God's standard of what is "good" is absolute perfection**, and God's word tells us that **NO ONE is GOOD ENOUGH to get into heaven** on their own merits, by doing good deeds, or keeping the Ten Commandments, or by following the "good" beliefs of any other religion. Also, **God does not "grade on the curve"** as we do with ourselves. In case you don't know what "grading on the curve" is, it is a method used by some teachers and professors in determining the grades to be given for school work. **If no one scored high enough for an "A" they just lower the scale**, so that what would have been only a "B" is now an "A" - how convenient! Now nobody feels bad or stupid, but is it really a good idea? Does it show **REALITY**, or **is it only a form of DENIAL?** The teacher wants to look good in the eyes of his or her associates by making the students look smarter than they really are! God does not deal with us that way. **God's standard is PERFECTION or NOTHING - He does NOT lower the standard** to fit our selfishness, or laziness, or stupidity, or **PRIDE!** Jesus, God the Son in human flesh, is the only One who ever kept ALL of God the Father's commandments perfectly, and that is why He could be our Savior, and pay for our sins and failure to keep God's laws. His righteousness is applied to us when we receive Him as our Lord and Savior (II Corinthians 5:21).

Here are **three reasons WHY** we cannot come to God on the basis of our own good works, charitable deeds, keeping religious ordinances or rules, or trying to "keep the Ten Commandments":

(a) No one can do ENOUGH good works CONSISTENTLY to merit, earn or deserve salvation or earn their way to heaven -

- **Romans 3:23** "For **ALL** have sinned and **COME SHORT** of the glory of God."

- **James 3:2, 8-10** "For in many things **WE ALL OFFEND**. If any man offend not in word, he is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. But the tongue can no man tame, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless God, the Father, and with it we curse men which are made in the likeness of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so!"
- **James 2:10** "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, **and yet offend in ONE POINT**, he is **GUILTY OF ALL**."
- **Romans 3:10-12** "As it is written, 'There is **NONE righteous**, no not one: There is **NO ONE** who understands, there is **NO ONE** who seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become **worthless**. There is **NO ONE who does good**, no not one."
- **Romans 10:2-4** "For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but NOT according to KNOWLEDGE. For **they are ignorant** of God's righteousness (His perfect standards), and **seeking to establish THEIR OWN righteousness**, have **NOT** submitted themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the END of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes."

(b) All our GOOD WORKS are TAINTED by SELFISH and IMPURE motives -

- **Isaiah 64:6** "But **we are all as an UNCLEAN thing**, and all our righteousnesses (good deeds) are as **FILTHY RAGS**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities (sins), like the wind, have taken us away."
- **James 2:4** "Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with **EVIL MOTIVES**?"
- **Matthew 6:1** "Beware that you **do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be SEEN by them**. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven."
- **Proverbs 16:2** "All the ways of a man are **CLEAN in his OWN SIGHT**, but the Lord **weighs the MOTIVES**."
- **Proverbs 14:12** "There is **a way that SEEMS RIGHT to a man**, but the end results are the ways of death."
- **Jeremiah 17:9** "**The HEART is DECEITFUL** above all things, and **desperately wicked**; who can know it?"
- **James 4:8** "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and **PURIFY your HEARTS**, you double-minded."
- **Psalms 139:23-24** "**SEARCH ME, O GOD**, and know **my HEART**; **TEST ME**, and **know my MOTIVES**, and see if there is **any wicked way in me**, and lead me in the way everlasting."

(c) No amount of good works or good deeds can CANCEL OUT the sins we've committed (only GOD can DO IT FOR US) -

- **Titus 3:5** "**NOT by works of righteousness** which **WE HAVE DONE**, but according to His mercy He saved us; by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit."
- **Ephesians 2:8-9** "For by grace are you saved by faith, and that **NOT** of yourselves, it is the gift of God: **NOT BY WORKS**, lest anyone should boast."
- **Colossians 2:13-14** "And you, **BEING DEAD IN YOUR SINS**, has He made alive together with Him (Jesus), having forgiven you all your trespasses, **CANCELING OUT** the handwriting of ordinances (requirements) that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS**."
- **Romans 8:3** "For what the law (keeping God's commandments) **COULD NOT DO**, in that it was weak through the flesh (our human nature), **GOD DID by SENDING HIS OWN SON** in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh."

- **Psalm 51:1-2, 10** "Have **MERCY** on me, O God, according to Your loving kindness, according to the multitude of Your tender mercies **BLOT OUT** my transgressions; **WASH ME** thoroughly from my iniquity, and **CLEANSE ME from my sin.CREATE IN ME** a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me."

What should be our attitude towards those who differ with us in our beliefs? We said under part (2.) of the question above that "you can "mingle" with members of any other religious group in order to witness to them, and try to bring them to faith in Jesus." **When witnessing to those who do not believe in the true God, or the Jesus of the Bible, remember that showing the LOVE of CHRIST is more important than winning an argument.** In our flesh, on a human level, we like to be the one to "win the argument" and come out ahead. As far as God is concerned, it is more important to back off from an argument and not lose your temper, and to leave the person with the feeling that you are concerned about THEM as a PERSON, rather than just another notch on your belt, or another argument to be won. You don't always HAVE to be right; and if you feel you do, that is PRIDE! **Yes, God's word is TRUTH, and the person you are witnessing to is most likely swimming in lies and false doctrines, but the point is, YOU can't change their heart or mind, only God can.** Don't be afraid to just show the love of Christ, and be content to plant the seed of the Gospel. It is better that what you do and say is building up (edifying), rather than tearing down.

- **Ephesians 4:29 & 5:1-2** "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your MOUTH, but what is good for necessary **edification (building up)**, that it may impart grace to the hearers." "Therefore be followers of God as dear children. And **WALK IN LOVE**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."

QUESTION: At what age is a child considered accountable for his or her actions? And what about those who have learning disabilities, are they accountable for their sins?

ANSWER: We talk about an "age of accountability" but that term is not mentioned in the Bible. What we mean by that is **the age at which a child can discern right from wrong**, and can understand what it means to be a sinner, so that they can receive Jesus as their Savior. There is no actual age that is the same for every child, but God knows the heart and mind of each child, and if a child dies before he or she was old enough to really understand what sin is, then God will accept that child on the basis of what Jesus did on the cross. As for adults that have learning disabilities or mental illness, or are mentally retarded, of course, God is absolutely fair, and will not require them to know and understand everything about salvation. You see, **when Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross, he was actually paying for the sins of the whole world.** When a person becomes an adult, and can understand right from wrong, they need to accept Jesus as their Savior, and His death on the cross provides for them to be saved and go to heaven. Just because Jesus paid for the sins of the whole world doesn't mean everybody gets saved - **they have to receive and accept Jesus as their Savior, or else it doesn't do them any good.** The good news of the gospel is that Jesus has already paid for your sins, and all you have to do is believe it and receive Him.

- **II Corinthians 5:18-19** "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them**, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

- **I Timothy 4:10** "For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living **God, who is the Savior of all men**, especially of those who believe."
- **I John 2:2** "And He Himself is the propitiation (sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours only but **also for the whole world.**"