

Faith

Fundamentals

FaithQuest
A Guide to Simple Christianity

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The Philosophy of Simple Christianity

Simple Christianity centers on restoring the *heart* of New Testament Christianity. Simple Christians endeavor to live, love, worship, and have the commitment and faith like that of the New Testament Christians. Simple Christianity is logical, relational and unconventional.

Simple Christians don't claim to be perfect or right about everything. Simple Christians focus on the commands and examples shown in God's Word of how the Church was when it first began. Simple Christians let these commands and examples be their guide for practicing Christianity today. This simple philosophy is how we approach the concept of the Fundamentals.

Why Simple Christianity is Important

As you look at your community, you will notice several church buildings representing different Christian religious groups. That may not seem strange to you, but it wasn't what Christ had in mind when the Church first began. Jesus wanted all Christians to be united as one.

Throughout history, the Church has split over and over again with each faction beginning another form of church organization. This is so unfortunate. What does it say about our faith and love to a non-Christian when Christians can't agree among themselves?

Many times the traditions that separate people are not issues of doctrine or teaching, but of personal or group preference. If we can focus back on the God's Word and commit ourselves to being simple Christians – perhaps we will begin to find that Christian unity that is so needed in our world today.

One important goal of Simple Christianity is unity. Jesus said in John 17:20, "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

GOD

Why should someone believe in God?

How can we define God?

God -- a _____ being who existed before the material world, who is all _____ all _____, and is _____.

Using the definition above, can I prove such a God exists?

YES

NO

The existence of God cannot be proved like the existence of something material. The existence of physical things are proved by the physical senses. Since God, by definition, is not physical, his existence cannot be proved this way.

There are two types of proof: _____ and _____.

- i. Observation proves by the use of the physical senses, like seeing a deer.
- ii. The presence of a deer can also be proved by reasoning. If effects/clues are present which can only be explained by the presence of a deer, then we conclude a deer has been there.

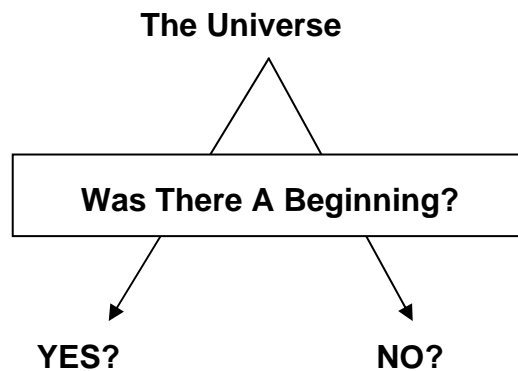
Proving God's Existence by Cause and Effect

We cannot prove God's existence by _____ because He is a _____ being, but we can prove His existence by _____.

If there are clues present which only the presence of a divine spirit can explain, then we have proved the existence of such a being.

1. Was There a Beginning to the Universe?

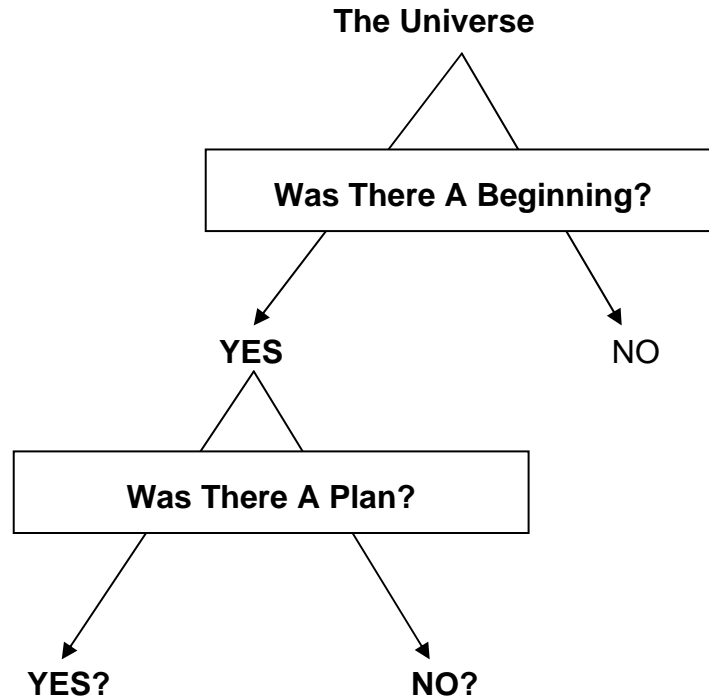
- A. By _____ we know our universe exists. Since it is material, its existence can be proved by our physical sense. But the universe is an effect.
- B. What is the cause for this effect?



- i. Science has proof that the universe has not always been here
 - ii. The second law of thermodynamics says a system moves toward disorder->entropy chaos.
 - Examples: aging, cars, technology
 - iii. If the universe had always been here with no intervention, it would have been in chaos by now.
 - Example: The sun is being used up.
-

2. Was There a Plan for the Universe?

- A. Think about plans...
- Does a plan come by chance?
 - Do blueprints come by chance?
 - Does a car design come by chance?



B. Was there a plan to the Universe?

i. If you answer NO, then everything came by accident.

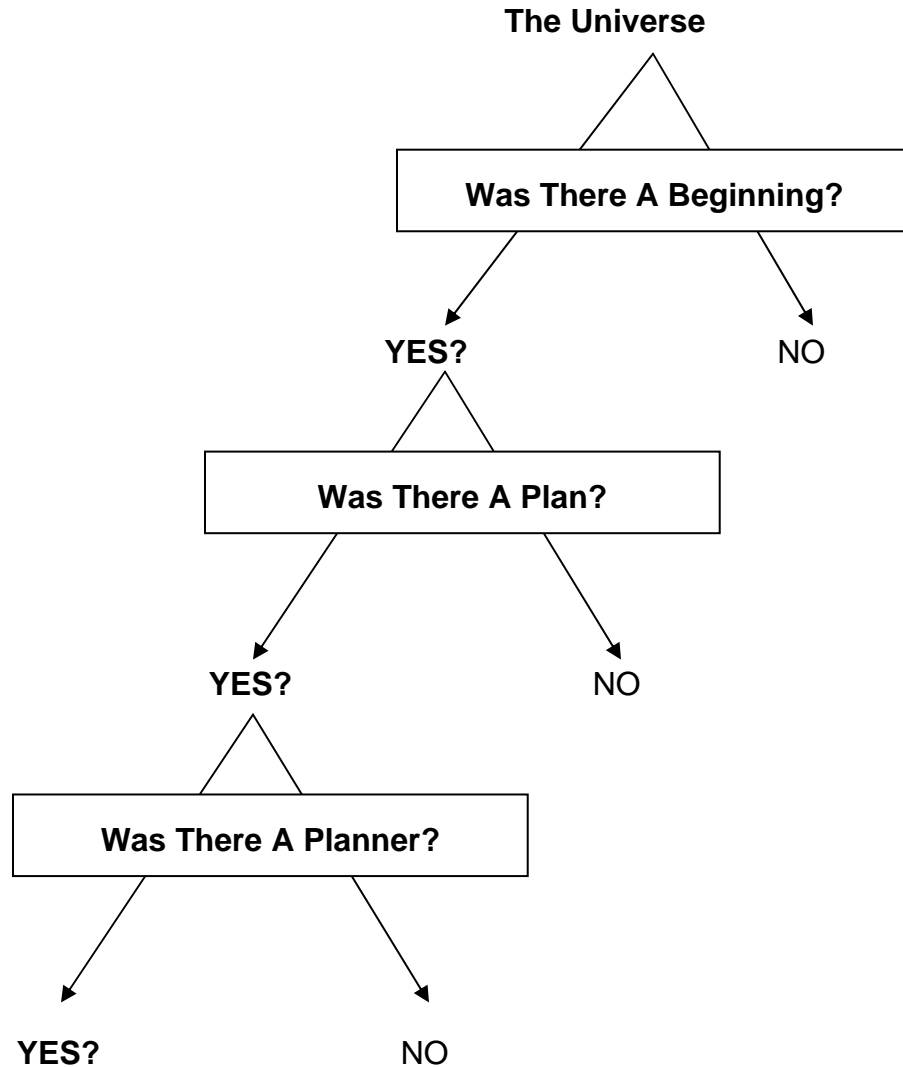
Note: For 26 letters (alphabet) to fall in order, we would have to toss them in the air every 1- 1/2 seconds for 2 quintillion years.

o How many times would we have to drop a box of watch parts before it would produce a watch?

ii. What do we know that has design that was not planned?

iii. Discoveries may come by accident, but design is not by accident.

Remember: For the universe to be an accident is contrary to all our experience. The evidence says nothing with order can be an accident.



3. Was There a Planner?

- A. What perfectly ordered plan can exist without someone to develop the plan?
- B. Does a house blueprint come by accident? If it is agreed that there was a plan to the development of the universe then logically we must assume that there was someone who developed the plan. What would the characteristic of the planner of the universe be like? What characteristics would a planner need to have to originate and carry out the plan ?
 - i. The planner must exist before the plan.
 - ii. The planner must exist before the plan can be carried out.
 - iii. The planner must be non-material.

- iv. The planner must have vast knowledge.
- v. The planner must have access to unlimited power to carry out the plan for the universe.

D. Who could be the planner?

- Remember the Definition of God, on page 5.

God--a spirit being who existed before the material world, who is all-knowing, all-powerful, and is everywhere.

Review

We began with the universe. We observed that the universe is here and that it has great order and precision. Since the evidence is clear that the universe has not always been here, something had to be its cause. Since we cannot observe what this cause was, we must rely on reason to determine it.

Our reasoning tells us that nothing as orderly and as vast as the universe can begin from nothing. Our reasoning also tells us that we have all things of order have come from a plan or planner, and are not by accident.

We reason, then, that the only cause sufficient to produce the universe was a spirit being which knows all and has all power.

Life Application

So, what difference does it make to our lives if we believe there is a spirit being with the power and knowledge to create the universe?

THE BIBLE

Why should someone believe the Bible is inspired by God?

You cannot prove the inspiration of the Bible by itself. The Bible is not necessarily from God just because it says it is. Other books can make that claim too.

To determine the truthfulness of any book, we must examine it to understand it's qualities and why those qualities exist.

Qualities of the Bible

1. The Bible is Accurate

The Bible makes thousands of statements which can be checked by historical documents and by archaeology.

In every point where we can check the Bible against the facts of history and archaeology, the Bible is found to be accurate. Here are some examples.

A. King Sargon of Assyria, lived about 700 B.C. **Isaiah 20:1**.

- Until the middle of the 1800's, no source outside the Bible mentioned Sargon. Was the Bible wrong?
- In 1843 an archeologist digging near ancient Ninevah found a huge palace surrounded by many other buildings. Hundreds of records confirmed this was the palace of Sargon, proving what the Bible said about him was true.
- No one living between about 600 B.C. and 1843 A.D. ever knew anything about Sargon, yet the Bible told his story accurately. How?

B. Sannacherib of Assyria

- In **II Kings 18-19**, the Bible says Sannacherib of Assyria had conquered many cities in Judah and that he even surrounded the city of Jerusalem, but that he did not conquer it because God sent a plague

on his army.

- In 1849, an archaeologist found a clay prism which Sennacherib left as a record of his own deeds. On the prism, Sennacherib claims to have conquered 48 cities of Judah and says he surrounded Jerusalem but makes no claim to have captured it.
- The Bible was accurate. How did the Bible writer know?

C. Cyrus allowed captive Jews to return home

- **Ezra 1:1-2** records that Cyrus allowed Jews who were captives in Babylon to return to their own land and rebuild their temple.
- In 1880, an archaeologist found an ancient clay cylinder on which Cyrus had recorded the important deeds of his reign. On the cylinder, Cyrus records that he let captive peoples return to their own lands to rebuild temples to their gods.
- The Bible was accurate. The Bible writer must have lived when and where he said he did.

D. Thousands of other instances could be given to show that the Bible is accurate -- names of people, provinces, kingdoms, towns and cities, customs, and events.

Therefore...

- ❖ **The Bible writers must have lived when and where they claimed or else they could not have written so accurately of the ancient times, people, places, and events.**

2. The Bible is in harmony with every established fact of science.

There are theories of science that disagree with the Bible, but the Bible is in harmony with the established facts.

A. The Earth

- Other ancient books, written when the Bible was, said that the earth is flat, that it was held up by a giant turtle, that there are 3000 stars, and that the earth is in the center of the universe. Such things were common beliefs of people when the Bible was written.
 - i. **Job 26:7** says the earth hangs on nothing.
 - ii. **Isaiah 40:22** speaks of the circle of the earth.

- iii. **Genesis 1:2** says that at beginning, water covered everything.
 - iv. **Genesis 15:5** suggests that the stars are innumerable.
- B. The Bible writers wrote in advance about some things not discovered for centuries.
- i. **Psalms 8:8** tells of paths or "currents" in the sea long before they were discovered. Matthew Maury who discovered them, got his idea for them from this psalm.
 - ii. Many of Moses' laws are based on an understanding of disease and germs long before such ideas were known.
 - not to touch a dead body
 - wear masks over faces
 - not to eat meats that we now know are prone to give food poisoning.

How do we explain all of this?

- A. An ancient book that is accurate with known and unknown history.
 - B. An ancient book in harmony with later discoveries of science.
 - C. An ancient book whose writers wrote of things not discovered for centuries.
 - ❖ The writers obviously had help from a source not available to other ancient writers, even those writers of other ancient religions.
3. The Bible makes many correct predictions about cities and nations -- hundreds of years in advance.
- A. **Ezekiel 29:14-19**, 589 B.C., predicts that Nebuchadnezzar will take Egypt and that it will never again rise to a major world empire.
 - It never has.
 - B. **Jeremiah 51:32-64**, from 595 B.C., and **Isaiah 13:19-21**, 712 B.C., predict that the city of Babylon will become desolate and will never be rebuilt.
 - Today it is ruins and only animals live there.
 - C. **Ezekiel 35:1-19**, 587 B.C. predicts that the Edomites, descendants of Esau, will cease to exist as a people and their cities will be desolate.

- All of this was precisely fulfilled -- there are no Edomites today and the ruins of their cities are a marvel to visiting tourists.

D. **Deuteronomy 28:36-37; 63-66** predict that the Israelites will continue as a people but will be scattered among many nations and will be persecuted wherever they go.

These and hundreds of other predictions raise the question --

- How did these writers know what would happen to a nation or a people centuries in advance?
- And how could they be so exact and be right every time? What cause is great enough to produce this effect?

The Qualities of the Bible

1. History and archaeology show it to be accurate.
2. It agrees with facts of science discovered much later.
3. It can predict the future of nations and cities hundreds of years in advance and be right every time.
 - How?
 - Where did these writers get their information? Lucky guess?

Logic demands an explanation beyond human ability.

- ❖ Inspiration had to come from a greater source more knowledgeable than mere human ability allows.

Life Application

What difference does believing that the Bible is the inspired Word of God make to our lives?

THE TESTAMENTS

What is the difference between the Bible's Old Testament and New Testament?

Covenant: *Formal, solemn, and binding agreement: compact. A written agreement or promise usually under seal of two or more parties esp. for the performance of some action.*

We all know how important it is to keep up with changes in the law. When tax laws change, we must know whether the changes apply to us. When laws about retirement, speed limits, or school boundaries change, we should find out what the changes are and whether we must change something we are doing in order to comply with the law.

The same is true with God's laws and requirements too. He has not always asked everyone to do the same things. We know that God told Noah to build an ark but we understand that we do not have to. We know that the Israelites were told to build a tabernacle, but we know that we do not have to.

Covenants

The Bible speaks of a fundamental difference between two covenants that God has established. These covenants apply to different people in different circumstances. Some people fail to recognize these differences.

Jeremiah 31:31 -- *"The time is coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.*

1. How many covenants are mentioned? _____.
 - A. The first one was made when God led the Israelites out of Egypt. It was a covenant made through Moses at Mt. Sinai.
 - B. The second one would come at a time _____ Jeremiah's day (600 B.C.)

- The 8th chapter of Hebrews comments on the Jeremiah passage and says, " *For if there had been nothing wrong with that _____, no place would have been sought for _____.* **Hebrews 8:7**
2. If Moses delivered the first covenant, who delivered the second?
 - A. **Heb. 8:6** -- "*But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.*"
 - B. So there are _____ covenants, one being delivered by Moses and the second brought by _____.
 3. The first covenant began when Moses was at Mt. Sinai. When did the second one begin? _____
 - A. **Hebrews 9:16-17**: "*In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living.*"
 - B. The nature of the second covenant is like a "last will and testament" and such documents do not go into effect until the one who makes the will _____.
 - C. So the covenant of Jesus did not go into effect until he died.
 4. Did the first covenant continue in effect after the second one began?
 - A. **Hebrews 10:9b**-- "*He sets aside the first, to establish the second.*"
 - B. **Romans 7:2-4** -- "*For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³ So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.*

⁴ So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God."
 5. Two laws cannot be in effect at the same time. What would happen if two laws were in effect?
 - A. **II Corinthians 3:6** speaks of the "*new covenant*" of which Christians are ministers.

- B. Verse 7 calls the covenant "*which was engraved in letters on stone,*" one which is "*a ministry that brought death*" because it commanded death for its violators and had no real means of forgiveness.
- C. Verses 11 and 13 speak of the law as one which is "fading away."



The first covenant, the one given by Moses, was given only to the Israelites. It was never intended as a covenant for the Gentiles. If it was still in effect, it would only have applied to those who are descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Gentiles today (anyone who isn't Jewish) would never have been under the old covenant.

- 6. Which covenant are we under?
 - A. Paul makes it very clear that the Jews who had been under the first covenant could not continue under it after they became united with Christ.
 - B. To those who had become Christians, Paul writes, "*You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*" **Galatians 5:4**

Life Application

- 1. What does the separation of the two covenants mean to us today?

- 2. How does this change how we study the Bible?

JESUS

Why should someone believe that Jesus is the son of God?

1. What did Jesus claim about himself, according to the following passage?

A. **John 10:30-33** *I and the Father are one.*"

{31} Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, 32 but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"

{33} "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

B. What is the implication of what Jesus says in the following passage?

John 5:17-18: ¹⁷ *Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."* ¹⁸ *For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.*

- C. What is Jesus saying in the following passage? What would this mean to those who heard this?

John 8:58: *"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"*

- i. Additional Notes for John 8:58:

- **Exodus 3:14:** *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*
- **Deuteronomy 32:39:** *"See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand."*

- D. What was Jesus' claim in the following passage?

John 5:23-24: *that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*

{24} "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

- E. What does it mean to know Jesus, according to the following passage?

John 8:19: *Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"*

"You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

F. According to this passage, if you have seen Jesus, who have you seen?

John 14:9: *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

G. What claims does Jesus make according to the following passage?

John 5:20-29: ²⁰ *For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.* ²¹ *For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.* ²² *Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,* ²³ *that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*

²⁴ *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.* ²⁵ *I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.* ²⁶ *For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.* ²⁷ *And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.*

²⁸ *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice* ²⁹ *and come out--those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.*

H. Who does Jesus say that he is, according to the following passage?

John 4:20-26: ²⁰ *Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."*

²¹ *Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."*

²⁵ *The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."*

²⁶ *Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."*

2. In the following passages who is worshipping whom and why does Jesus allow it?

A. **Matthew 8:2:** ² *A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."*

B. **John 9:35** *Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"*

³⁶ *"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."*

³⁷ *Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."*

³⁸ *Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.*

C. **Matthew 14:25-33** During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.
³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

3. Two Propositions Regarding These Claims

Proposition 1: Jesus is telling the truth OR

Proposition 2: Jesus is a liar

A. **Mark 8:29** "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Christ. "

- What is the fundamental question that all must answer according to this verse?
-

Proposition 1: Jesus is telling the truth

- A. According to the following passage, if Jesus' claims are true, what difference does that make?

John 20:30 *Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Proposition 2: Jesus is a Liar

- A. If Jesus' claims were false:
- i. He would also be a hypocrite, because he taught others to live by truth.
 - ii. He would also be a fool, because it was His claims to being God's son that led him to be killed.

iii. **Mark 14:61-64:** *Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.*

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

⁶² "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. ⁶⁴ "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

- iv. **John 19:7:** *The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."*
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Question: *How many witnesses does it take to prove a person's guilt or innocence?*

The witnesses of Jesus

- A. Who would be in the best position to know the most about Jesus?
-
-

- B. According to the following passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

Luke 3:22: ²² *and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."*

- C. According to the following passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

Matthew 16:15-16: *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"*

¹⁶ *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

- D. According to the following passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

Acts 2:36: *"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

- E. According to this passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

John 20:28: *Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"*

- F. According to this passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

Acts 7:59: *While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*

- G. According to this passage, who is the witness and what is the witness' testimony about Jesus?

Titus 2:13: *while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,*

1. If we conclude that Jesus is a liar, then:

A. All of his disciples were liars as well.

B. The Bible is inaccurate.

- *Remember lesson Two: Why should someone believe in God?, page 5?*

C. All the Christians who died for their beliefs were fools.

Life Application

If we conclude that Jesus' claims about himself are true, what does that mean to our lives?

SIN

What is sin?

Genesis 3:6-8 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

1. How does Genesis 3:6-8 help us define sin? What is sin?

2. According to Romans 3:23, who has sinned?

Romans 3:23: *for _____ have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

3. According to Luke 6:41-42, how is sin often rationalized?

Luke 6:41-42: *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? {42} How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

4. What are the consequences of sin?

Romans 6:23: For the wages of _____ is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- A. What does "death" in Romans 6:23 refer to?

5. What is the greatest punishment for sin?

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 NIV God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you {7} and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. {8} He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. {9} They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

Confronting our sin

1. What does the following passage teach us about confronting our sin?

Mark 9:43-48: If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. {44} {45} And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. {46} {47} And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, {48} where

"their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."

2. The unending battle of sin

- A. In the following passage, what is Paul teaching about sin and the desire to live a godly life?

Romans 7:15-25: *I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

- B. What is God's desire for those who have sinned?
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C. According to the following passage, how does God feel about sinners?

Luke 15:3-7: *Then Jesus told them this parable: {4} "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? {5} And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders {6} and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' {7} I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

D. With the above scriptures in mind, what is the dilemma of sin?

Life Application

In the space below, draw a picture that would illustrate this dilemma.

GRACE

What is Grace?

Romans 3:22-24: *This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, {23} for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, {24} and are _____ freely by his _____ through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

1. What is righteousness?

2. What is justification?

Titus 3:7: *so that, having been _____ by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

3. What was God's motivation for sending Christ?

A. **Romans 5:6-8:** *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. {7} Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. {8} But God demonstrates his own _____ for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for _____.*

B. Who did Christ die for?

4. What is redemption?

Ephesians 1:7: *In him we have redemption through his blood, the _____, in accordance with the riches of God's grace*

5. How does redemption change our relationship with God?

- Refer to Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

6. What are we saved by?

Ephesians 2:8-9: *For it is by _____ you have been saved, through _____ and this not from yourselves, it is the _____ of God-- {9} not by works, so that no one can boast.*

7. What is legalism and why is it detrimental to the Christian faith?

- The following passage is an answer to legalism.

2 Timothy 1:9: *who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,*

8. How does grace resolve the dilemma of sin?

Life Application

In the space below, draw a picture that shows the relationship between grace and sin.

Faith Quest: A Guide to Simple Christianity
The Fundamentals
Written by Walter L. McCutcheon, 2006
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