

Life's Ultimate Questions

All of us as human beings who have ever lived or ever will live, are asking, or will ask five basic worldview questions: (1) Where did I come from? (2) Why am I here? (3) What is wrong with the world? (4) How can what is wrong be made right? (5) Where am I going?

There are various answers that could be given to those questions, but that begs another question...

“In light of the evidence around us, which makes the most sense?”

Let's explore the possible answers together and which makes the most sense in light of the evidence.

Question 1: Where did I come from?

There are only 2 possible answers to this question...

Answer A: I am a cosmic accident and there is no God.

If God does not exist then life is absurd, it has no meaning (significance), value (there is no right and wrong), or purpose (having a goal). It means that we have no more value than the common house fly if we are just descendants of the same blind random processes that brought everything in the universe into existence.

This also means that we have to believe that absolutely everything in the universe came about from absolutely nothing. This begs another question...

“When is the last time we have ever seen something come from nothing?” This flies in the face of everything we know and experience daily. We all seem to sense that we have meaning for being on this planet, that there truly is right and wrong, that we really do have more intrinsic value than the common house fly.

But where does this sense of meaning, value, and purpose come from?

Answer B: I am created by God in His image and likeness. (Genesis 1:26-27)

The Bible says that whether you are short or tall, beautiful or severely deformed, you are the crowning glory of God's creation. The Bible also says that the rest of creation reflects God's glory (**Psalm 19:1**).

Knowing that we are created by a loving God who desires for us to know Him really answers our next big question...

Question 2: Why am I here?

Once again there are only two real answers we can give...

Answer A: I am here to consume and enjoy.

If there is no God and life has no meaning or purpose then we are simply here to consume as much as we can in our pursuit of personal happiness. But if God exists, as we have established, then He is the One who dictates why we are here. So what does He say about why we exist?

Answer B: I am here to bring honor and glory to Jesus, my Creator. (1 Cor. 10:31; Colossians 1:16)

I no longer have to wander aimlessly through life waking up to simply get dressed, consume some water, food, and oxygen, go through the mundane tasks of the day to simply come home and go to bed so I can do the same meaningless thing again tomorrow.

Instead, I can know that I ultimately exist to reflect and honor my Creator, Jesus Christ. I now go from having no purpose to having one all consuming passion and purpose, to know Jesus and be just like Him. This is the greatest thrill one could ever experience because it is what you were created for. Our deep desire within to be loved and to make a difference in this world point to the truth of this fact.

Yet, while we may know that we exist for something far greater than ourselves and that God created us to be in a close relationship with Him and with others, something seems to be very wrong with this world we live in. Simply flip on the nightly news and you hear one story after another of war torn countries, domestic violence, ravaging diseases, and on and on it goes. That bring us to yet another major question that we all seem to ask at one point or another...

Question 3: What is wrong with the world?

Answer A: Nothing, in fact if an all holy and righteous God doesn't exist then we don't really even have a standard for right and wrong, good and evil.

Morals are actually an illusion that don't exist. If there is a God that exists but we make Him into whoever we want Him to be then standards will always change from person to person, once again leaving us with no real standard of right and wrong and even worse, leaving right and wrong up to everyone's own opinion.

The Bible on the other hand tells us exactly what it is that is wrong with the world...

Answer B: We are what is wrong with the world. (Gen. 3; Romans 3:23)

The Bible tells that not only did the first human beings ever created sin (Gen. 3), but so do you and I (Rom. 3:23). This poses a huge problem because God cannot have a relationship with anyone that is tainted by sin. He also has to punish all sin or He ceases to be a righteous judge. He cannot simply turn a blind eye to our sin just as a good judge could not turn a blind eye to someone who has broken the law. But this would mean that no one could ever get heaven on their own merit if God has to punish all sins, even the ones we consider little. This is where the “Good News” of Jesus answers our next major question...

Question 4: How can what is wrong in the world be made right?

Answer A: We can improve our behavior and live better lives.

The problem with this answer is that we are sinful and selfish by nature, so just trying harder to be good doesn't work. God actually gave us a test in what we call the 10 commandments so we can see how we measure up to even the most basic of commands. Let's test ourselves with just a few and see how we do.

A Few of the 10 Commandments:

Commandment #1 – You shall have no other gods before me.

Have you ever put anything before God? If so God says we are idol worshippers.

Commandment #3 – You shall not take God's name in vain.

Have you ever used God's name as a swear word or to make a promise? If so God says we are blasphemers.

Commandment #7 – You shall not commit adultery.

Have you ever looked at someone with lust who isn't your spouse? Jesus said if we even look at someone with lust it's as if we have committed adultery because the intent to do so is there. (Matthew 5:27-28)

Commandment #8 – You shall not steal.

Have you ever stolen anything? If so that makes you a thief.

Commandment #9 – You shall not lie.

Have you ever lied? If so that makes you a liar.

Just from looking at 5 of the 10 commandments (there are 613 in the Bible by the way) we discover that we are idol worshipping, blaspheming, adulterers, as well as thieves and liars. Even if wicked people finally stop committing evil acts, God still has to punish the evil acts committed and on top of that He will not allow anything imperfect into His heaven. Jesus Himself said the standard for heaven was perfection (Matthew 5:43-48). This means that every being ever created is in dire straits. We have no hope of ever attaining perfection on our own.

This is where the greatest news of all comes in...

Answer B: We can put our faith in Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for our sin that we could never pay and because He is the God-man He alone can change us now and save us for eternity. (Colossians 1:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

In other words, because of what Jesus did on the cross (He died for our sins), and because of His resurrection from the dead, we can have all of our sins paid for (past, present, and future), and be seen as perfect in the eyes of God, not because of anything that we have done, but because of what Jesus did (Colossians 1:22).

You see, the moment you trust what Jesus did on the cross is the moment God no longer looks upon you and the sin you have committed, but instead sees Jesus in you who is absolutely perfect, and therefore you are now viewed as perfect (2 Corinthians 5:21).

In God's mercy He chose not to give us what we deserve, hell and death, but instead gave us Jesus who provides the only way to heaven and eternal life (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). But this is only for those who accept the free gift offered in Jesus. This brings us to the last of life's ultimate questions...

5. Where am I going?

Answer A: Many say nowhere, the grave is the end of all things.

If there is no God then the ultimate destination of all people is simply 6 feet underground and that is it. Life has no purpose and ultimately everything we have ever done was for not. But something inside of us seems to cry out that there is more to this life than to simply be born, take up some space, oxygen, food, and water for however many years we have and then just die. That is because there is a more plausible answer...

Answer B: I will spend eternity in either heaven or hell depending on whether or not I choose to put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16-18)

In those dark hours that Jesus hung from the cross, the Father took those who would put their trust in Jesus and wrapped them in His Son who shielded them, taking every blow that they deserve. The passionate intensity of God's anger at us for our sin collides with the passionate intensity of God's love for us, causing the passionate intensity of the cross to be shouldered by God Himself in human form.

Wrapping Up the Gift:

We have just explored the greatest gift that has been ever been offered in all of human history, Jesus' life being given for ours so that we may be in heaven forever. But we actually have one final question that must be answered. It's quite possibly the most important question of all. Here it is...

“What am I supposed to do with the gift of Jesus that is being freely offered to a sinner like me who doesn't deserve such a gift?”

Answer: Put your faith and trust in Jesus alone, the only One that can save you from your sin and make you perfect in God's eyes.

What exactly are you trusting Christ for?

Two things...

First, that your sin went to Jesus' account and His goodness went to yours.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Since Jesus was punished for your sins committed, God is not angry at you anymore. He cannot be angry at you anymore because He poured out every ounce of His anger and wrath on Jesus when on the cross.

Second, you trust that Jesus' own life inside you can transform you here and now.

(Galatians 2:20)

The Bible tells us that the moment we trust what Jesus did for us on the cross He begins to live inside us (Galatians 2:20). This is where truly changed lives come from. It is where we can become what God created us to be, people that honor and reflect Him.

Now what?

Well, there is no special prayer or ritual that you perform in order to trust Christ. You simply tell Him that you trust him and that you are asking Him to save you, grow you, and use you.

You can pray something like this if you truly mean it...

“Lord, I know that you created me to love you and love others. But I also know that I don’t do that. I am a sinner that has chosen to do things my own way and I have separated myself from you. I deserve hell and death, but I am thankful that you have provided Jesus to pay the full penalty for my sin so that I can be in heaven and have eternal life. I trust Jesus now as my Savior who took my sin upon Himself and in exchange gave me His righteousness so that I can be perfect in God’s eyes. Amen.”

Next Steps:

- 1. Tell someone you know who has already trusted Jesus about your decision and ask them to begin praying with and for you.**
- 2. Get a good study Bible and begin with reading one chapter a day from the book of John and then from the book of Romans.**
- 3. Get involved with a local Bible based church.**
 - If you don’t know where to get a good study Bible or where to get plugged into a local Bible based church, ask the person you know who is already a follower of Jesus.
 - You can also call us at New Covenant Church anytime @ 505-857-9875.