The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus

Jesus' Hometown

Jesus is the Son of God (see Fun-da-Mental #4). He lived in heaven, the perfect place to live. It had been His hometown forever and ever, before our world was created.

Satan Gets Technical

Adam and Eve's sin created another problem. God cannot be around sin, because He's completely pure and holy. So He could no longer be around His people. God stayed in close touch, but He couldn't come visit anymore.

Satan thought, Aha, these human beings, they are all mine! Mine, mine, mine! God has no right to touch, but He couldn't come visit anymore. Satan had a grip on power in this world, and he claimed to control all the people, since they were trapped in sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Without help, we are all hostages in Satan's horrible world and we'll die forever. But the Godhead (see Fun-da-Mental #3) saw the problem before it was a problem. They had made a plan ahead of time.

Jesus could become a human being while still being God. He would live on earth without sinning. He'd die for all the sins of all the people, and that would pay the "wages." It was a perfect but very expensive plan.

Help!

Adam and Eve sinned, and the human race had a deadly problem with no way out of it. Doomed!

Satan had a grip on power in this world, and he claimed to control all the people, since they were trapped in sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Without help, we are all hostages in Satan's horrible world and we'll die forever.

But the Godhead (see Fun-da-Mental #3) saw the problem before it was a problem. They had made a plan ahead of time.

Jesus could become a human being while still being God. He would live on earth without sinning. He'd die for all the sins of all the people, and that would pay the "wages." It was a perfect but very expensive plan.

Yes, But . . . Is it fair for God to allow Jesus to lay down His life and take our punishment for sin? Doesn't that mean justice is not served?

Fact is, we can never meet the demands of justice. We can't obey all of God's laws by ourselves. The only way out is for God to give us a gift.

So that's what God did. He gave us Jesus, Who willingly left heaven to live on earth.

Pardon Me

After we accept Jesus' payment for our rescue, and we stop sinning, we are pardoned. That means we have no criminal record anymore.

"Let the wicked forsake their ways. . . . Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, . . . for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:7, NIV).

Secret Service

• We give up our urge to do wrong.
• We allow the Spirit to work in us.
• We give up our urge to do wrong.
• He takes care of the rest.

Why Would He Do That?

The word you're looking for is grace. Dictionary says: "A showing of favor, especially by a superior."

The Godhead looked at us, the sad, lost people, and felt good about us. Even though we were in rebellion against Them, They loved us all. The Father and the Son and the Spirit wanted to rescue every one of us from Satan.

Here's the miracle: God loves us so much that He lets us choose whether to be rescued or not. Because of that, you can see what God's amazing love is like.

RelationShip Problems

The problem with sin is that it is breaking God's law. We can't be rescued until the punishment for sin has been taken care of.

Couldn't God say, "Forget about it; I'll just overlook those sins and everything is fine"? No. If you break the law of gravity, you cannot say, "Forget about it. Let's skip the consequences." If you break the law of gravity, you plummet to earth and ka-blam! If you break any of God's laws, there is always a consequence. The laws are the structure of the universe. Break them and die.

What About the "Stop Sinning" Part?

To be rescued from sin, the only thing you do is to accept the gift of Jesus' death for you. That is all.

After you've been rescued, you obey God's laws. It's the logical thing to do. You don't want to be sinful anymore. You want to obey God.

And don't obey God's laws just as a thank-you. Do it because they're God's rules for life.

Grace

God gave us even more under His plan:

• He knew we could not stop sinning by our own effort.
• Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us the power to stop sinning.
• We allow the Spirit to work in us.
• We give up our urge to do wrong.
• He takes care of the rest.

It's A Sure Thing

After His death, Jesus was resurrected!

"Unless Christ was raised to life, your faith is useless, and you still living in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17).

We know that God's plan worked. We are good to go (to heaven).

How Much God Loves You

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.