



The Situation Between

GOD

&

ALL OF US

Of God

We'll start with the premise that there is a God. And there is only one God (which by definition must be true for God to be God):

Isaiah 44:6 — "Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."

The Bible says the sky and starry heavens show His glory:

Psalm 19:1 — "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

And it also says that we are responsible for seeing Him in the creation around us:

Romans 1:20 — "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

Also by definition, God must be infinite in everything He is — infinitely powerful:

Jeremiah 32:17 — "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast

made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"

And infinitely holy and pure, etc:

Isaiah 6:3 — "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

We can look around at His creation and realize He is good and gracious in providing for our needs — sunshine, water, food, etc:

Acts 14:17 — "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

And, everything is completely ordered — the sun always comes up, the years always pass the same way, etc:

Genesis 8:22 — "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

Now, God created all of the creatures as well. We see in

animal and insect behavior that they have programmed instincts that drive them in their behavior. Bees do bee things (very amazing things too if you study them!), goats do goat things, cows cow things, etc.

Of Man

Now, when God created man, He did something a little different — He created mankind to also have rational thought (things like the ability to wonder or ask why), and most importantly, to have fellowship with the Creator. The animals don't have that. He also stamped on the first people His image of goodness, love, holiness, and the like — making us similar in nature to Him although not in quantity (His is infinite and ours finite):

Genesis 1:27 — “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

Man had his own sort of “instinct” to love God, to be good, to do good, and to choose these things.

Of God & Man

With God being infinitely majestic, and the creator of man, He also has a right over His creation. If you create a vase, you have right to decide how to create it and what it's used

for, because you made it:

Romans 9:20-21 — “Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”

Well, God has that right, and thus authority, over man, as well as over all of creation.

Now, one in authority requires fidelity from those around them. And how is fidelity shown? Even in our versions of authority, the king sets rules, and his subjects follow the rules. And breaking a rule of the king or any authority requires a penalty. We see that in our own justice system.

So, God set a rule for the first people to follow. And it was a relatively easy one — it was a “don’t do” something:

Genesis 2:16-17 — “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

All that had to be done was do nothing, which is theoretically easier than performing some action. It could

have been an action which would have been impossible for man to keep, but it wasn't, so His rule was very fair.

Of Disobedience & Its Consequences

But, the first people didn't keep the rule, so God became the offended party in the relationship with man:

Genesis 3:6 — “And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

This offense was an infinite one because it was against an infinite Being, leading to some extraordinarily bad results.

Man incurred the guilt of breaking the rule and incurred the penalty, and also became dirty and diseased in his being in the eyes of God, the Bible likening it to leprosy:

Isaiah 64:6 — “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

There was now a complete breach in the relationship between God and man because man was now not holy any more, and now filthy, and God, who is perfectly holy, could no longer have man in His presence:

Isaiah 59:2 — “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

Because the offense was infinite, the penalty must also be infinite. So, it was a just sentence (that is, it served justice) that a sentence of eternal punishment was placed on man:

Romans 5:18 — “Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”

Man also lost that stamp of God’s image, and the love and goodness that man possessed was now dead and gone. With those God-imagined “instincts” gone, and man having acted in rebellion, man now only has an “instinct” to choose not to follow God’s rules, and that disobedience is also called sin:

Romans 3:10-12 — “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Now as a sinner, man does what sinners do — he sins, like the bee does bee things. Man now by nature is constantly in rebellion to God, with the Bible even saying he is at enmity with (actively opposed and even hostile to) God:

Romans 8:7 — "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

And all people are now born only with this instinct, which is passed on from generation to generation. The evidence of that can be seen in children — they don't have to be taught how to tell a lie:

Psalm 51:5 — "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Because of this, and that the offense was infinite, there's no way for man to undo that bondage to that instinct, nor pay the penalty for sin, because he is finite:

John 8:34 — "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

The result is that man now, even from birth, faces an eternal punishment and eternal separation from his loving Creator.

Of the Remedy in God's Son Jesus

However, it doesn't end there. In order for God to be in relationship with anyone again several things are needed: forgiveness for all of the sin, a cleansing from the disease and dirtiness of sin, and a pure holiness restored to a person.

But how can this be done, if man cannot do it? Well, the plan was to have a Mediator — one who could represent the two parties, and one who could pay an infinite price for the penalty, one who could cleanse from the disease of sin, and one who could provide a perfect holiness to people.

1 Timothy 2:5 — *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”*

And this could only be done by a mediator who is both God and man. God's Son, Jesus, who is also God Himself, added to Himself the substance of a man in being conceived in a virgin woman named Mary by a miracle of God:

Isaiah 7:14 — “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Jesus was born into this world, without the sin nature being passed onto him as would be in normal human births:

Luke 1:35 — “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Now as both God and man, a fitting Mediator, He would breach the gap between God and man by paying the penalty, providing for the cleansing, and bringing the perfect holiness.

First, Jesus kept all of God’s rules perfectly throughout His entire life, doing what the first people did not do:

Hebrews 4:15 — “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

Otherwise, any punishment given to Him would be for His

own sin, and then He could never take away anyone else's sin penalty, or bring any cleansing or perfect holiness.

Then, Jesus paid the penalty and provided for the cleansing when He died on a Roman cross, shedding His blood. The Bible says only blood will cleanse from sin, and He shed His blood:

Hebrews 9:22 — “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

While on the cross, all the sins of His people were transferred in a legal sense to His account, as if He had committed all the sins. It's not that He had, but God looked at Him as if He had, and therefore could justly condemn Jesus for those sins:

Isaiah 53:6 — “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He also endured the eternal and infinite anger, wrath and punishment for all the sins of His people. Only an infinite Being could endure that infinite punishment, and He did.

Moreover, on the third day from His death, Jesus was raised from the dead:

1 Corinthians 15:4 — “*And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*”

Which shows the Father accepted His sacrificial work:

Romans 4:25 — “*Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*”

It also was a first-example of His people being raised from the dead to be with Him one day:

1 Corinthians 15:20 — “*But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*”

The last thing that remained was holiness for His people. In the same way their sins were transferred to His account on the cross, Jesus’ perfect keeping of God’s rules are transferred onto their account, as if they had kept them, even though they had not:

2 Corinthians 5:21 — “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*”

And now God and man can once again be in fellowship!

Furthermore, God takes those for whom Jesus died and

actually adopts them into His family:

Romans 8:15 — *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”*

Making them brothers and sisters of Jesus Himself:

Hebrews 2:11 — *“For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,”*

Amazing!

Lastly, God has graciously granted a record of all this in the Bible, so we can know anything about Him, our situation, and His great remedy:

2 Timothy 3:16 — *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

Of Reconciliation Between God & Man

Things have to happen to a person individually for them specifically to be able to be in fellowship with God again.

That sin-only instinct that rules in all people has to be handled. God has to create in a new “instinct”, one that is like His characteristics — an instinct of love and goodness, etc. This implanting of new instinct done by the Holy Spirit is called being given a new “heart” (which is the seat of all of our motivations):

Ezekiel 36:26 — “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.”

Or called being “born again”:

John 3:3 — “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

The Holy Spirit overrules the power of the sin instinct, and then a person is not bound to only sin anymore, being freed from that bondage:

Romans 8:2 — “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”

They can now follow God’s rules, and they actually have a desire to do so!

Psalm 40:8 — “*I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*”

And while a person before could do what looked like good things, they could not be motivated out of godly love or goodness, but now they can actually love and do good that is motivated by a God-like character:

1 John 4:19 – “*We love him, because he first loved us.*”

However, during this lifetime, they still carry around that sin instinct:

Galatians 5:17 — “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*”

But over time, out of love to God, more and more they will hate that bad instinct, and look forward to a day when it will be gone:

Romans 7:24 – “*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*”

And this only happens after death, when they go to a place called “Heaven” to be with God forever:

Revelation 21:3-4 — “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

When someone dies, they either die having been born again or not. If so, they are free from the penalty of sin, have been cleansed, and have been given Jesus’ righteousness. If not, they are still under the eternal penalty of God and have no righteousness of their own.

Someday, everyone will be judged by God:

Hebrews 9:27 — “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

And either they will have been saved from judgment by Jesus’ work, or not, and if not, then they will have to face what Jesus faced and went through regarding God’s wrath and punishment, by themselves, in a place called “Hell”, for all eternity:

Matthew 25:41 — “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”

Of God's Love

What motivated God to even offer an escape, and send His beloved Son to effect it, when He wasn't under any obligation to do any of it? Love. The Bible says God is love:

1 John 4:8 — *“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”*

And He has shown it, partially by sending His beloved and only Son:

John 3:16 — *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

Think about that — think about how difficult it would be to send your son to not only die, but that so you could pour out an infinite anger and punishment on that son. But God did, even to the point where on the cross there was a brief sense of separation between them:

Matthew 27:46 — *“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”*

But what great love of the Father to do this! And then the great love of Jesus Himself in willingly doing all of these things, including enduring the wrath of the One He loved dearly and has been with from all eternity past! And then the great love of the Holy Spirit to bring all of these things about and apply them and nurture God's people as they live out their new lives here!

Of an Individual Being Reconciled with God

So, how does a person participate in all this?

The first step is: Understand that you are indeed a sinner, and that you can do nothing about it yourself.

Then, go to the only One who can do something, and ask for mercy.

Ask God to apply this work of new birth to your heart.

Ask Him to forgive and cleanse you from your sins.

Ask that He grant that you hate and turn from your sin in a desire to follow His rules and commands in obedience.

Ask that He would apply Jesus' perfect obedience to your account and that you would look to it alone instead of any of your own righteousness before God.

And ask that He would grant you that same love that He showed in providing this great plan of salvation and being restored to fellowship with Him.

Even ask Him to help you believe all of this if you find it difficult to do so.

He promises those who come to Him in sincerity will not be cast away:

John 6:37 — “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”

He says seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you:

Matthew 7:7-8 — “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

If you have never done this before, we pray this day, that He will call you to this. We are not guaranteed our next heartbeat:

James 4:14 — “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

And once we die, the whole thing will have been decided.

We pray you will come to Him today, and seek and knock. And we pray He grant you new life, a love for Him, and a desire to be with such a loving Creator, God and Savior Jesus forever!

Amen!

— David

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