

## Our Problems, God's Answers



Every couple eventually has to deal with problems in marriage. Communication problems. Money problems. Difficulties with sexual intimacy. These issues are important to cultivating a strong, loving relationship with your spouse.

### The Big Problem

One basic problem is at the heart of every other problem in every marriage, no matter how hard you try, this is one problem that is too big for you to deal with on your own.

*The problem is separation from God. If you want to experience marriage the way it was designed to be, you need a vital relationship with the God who created you and offers you the power to live a life of joy and purpose.*

## **What separates us from God is – sin.**

We have ignored God and have decided to run our own lives in a way that makes sense to us. The Bible says that the God who created us wants us to follow his plan for our lives. But because of our sin problem, we think our ideas and plans are better than his.

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

- Romans 3:23

We have sought to satisfy ourselves with other things and have treated those things as more valuable than God. We have gone our own way. According to the Bible, we have to pay a penalty for our sin. We cannot simply do things the way we choose and hope it will all be OK with God. Following our own plan leads to our destruction.

*“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death”*

- Proverbs 14:12

*“For the wages of sin is death”*

- Romans 6:23a

The penalty for sin is that we are forever separated from God’s love. God is holy, and we are sinful. No matter how hard we try, we cannot come up with some plan, like living a good life or even trying to do what the Bible says, and hope that we can avoid the penalty.

## **God’s Solution to Sin**

Thankfully, God has a way to solve our dilemma. He became a man through the person of Jesus Christ. He lived a holy life, in perfect obedience to God’s plan. He also willingly died on a cross to pay our penalty for sin. Then he proved that he is more powerful than sin or death by rising from the dead. He alone has the power to overrule the penalty for our sin.

*“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’ ”*

- John 14:6

*“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”*

- Romans 5:8

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”*

- Romans 6:23

The death of Jesus has fixed our sin problem. He has bridged the gap between God and us. He is calling all of us to come to him and to give up our own flawed plan for how to run our lives. He wants us to trust God and his plan.

## **Accepting God’s Solution**

If you agree that you are separated from God, he is calling you to confess your sins.

*“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”*

- John 1:12

When the Bible talks about receiving Christ, it means we acknowledge that we are sinners. It means we turn away from our sin. And it means we trust Christ to forgive our sins and to make us the kind of people he wants us to be. It is not enough to just intellectually believe that Christ is the Son of God. We must trust in him and his plan for our lives by faith, as an act of the will.

Are things right between you and God, with Him and his plan at the centre of your life? Or is life spinning out of control as you seek to make your way on your own?

If you have never done this before, consider taking the steps listed here:

- Do you agree that you need God? Tell God.
- Have you made a mess of your life by following your own plan? Tell God.
- Do you want God to forgive you? Tell God.
- Do you believe that Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead gave him the power to fix your sin problem and to grant you the gift of eternal life? Tell God.
- Are you ready to acknowledge that God's plan for your life is better than any plan you could come up with? Tell God.
- Do you agree that God has the right to be the Lord and master of your life? Tell God.

*"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near"*

- Isaiah 55:6

Following is a suggested prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I now receive you as my Saviour and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person you want me to be."*

*Amen*

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, pray it right now, and Christ will come into your life, as he promised.

This step has eternal rewards.

Congratulations !