

## THE TRUTH ABOUT ERROR Four Myths about God and Sin

*(Error Variations: God can't look upon sin or a sinner. We are not right with God if we sin. God turns His back on us when we sin. Our relationship with God must be restored when we sin through confession and repentance. Sin causes estrangement from God. God the Father turned His back on God the Son when He bore our sins on the cross.)*

### Key Verse

#### Corinthians 5:18-19

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

### Myth #1 God Cannot Look Upon Sin or Sinners

**Truth: God can and does look upon sin and communicate with sinners.**

#### 1. Adam and Eve

- *After Adam and Eve sinned, THEY hid "themselves" (Gen. 3:7-8).*
- *God came LOOKING for them (Gen. 3:9).*
- *He clothed them with clothing He Himself made (Gen. 3:21).*
- *He took them out of the garden TO PROTECT THEM so that they would not eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in their sinful state (Gen. 3:22-24).*
- *He promised to send them a redeemer from the sin they'd committed (Gen. 3:15).*

Rather than separating Himself from the first sinners,  
He sought them out, covered their shame, protected them from eternal death,  
and promised to redeem them.

#### 2. Cain and Abel

- *God spoke with Cain before he killed his brother (Gen. 4:6-7).*
- *God spoke with Cain after he killed his brother (Gen. 4:9-12).*
- *God protected Cain from those who might take vengeance against him (Gen. 4:15).*

Throughout the time before the giving of the Law,  
God looked upon, communicated with, made promises to,  
provided for, and showed compassion upon imperfect human beings.

#### 3. This verse is sometimes quoted to say God can't look on evil. Other translations word it differently.

##### *Habakkuk 1:13*

##### *New International Version*

*Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.*

- **We can't base our entire doctrine on one version of a verse. We need to view other reputable translations.**

##### *New Living Translation*

*But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil.*

##### *New American Standard Bible*

*Your eyes are too pure to approve evil.*

- **We must not base our beliefs about God on one verse. We need to look at the whole of Scripture (such as the examples above) when forming opinions.**

##### *Proverbs 15:3 HCSB*

*The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, observing the wicked and the good.*

**Jeremiah 16:17 HCSB**

For My gaze takes in all their ways. They are not concealed from Me, and their guilt is not hidden from My sight.

**Myth #2 God Separates Himself from Us When We Sin**

4. **Under the Law, the people were blessed if they followed the law and cursed if they did not.** We read repeatedly of their failure to obey the law, even the law of not having other gods. Yet, it was the people, not God who broke the covenant.

**Jeremiah 31:31-32**

*“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— <sup>32</sup> not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.*

5. **This forsaking of the Old Covenant law brought about the promised curse**

**Deuteronomy 29:24-28**

*“All nations would say, ‘Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?’ <sup>25</sup> Then people would say: ‘Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; <sup>26</sup> for they went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them. <sup>27</sup> Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book. <sup>28</sup> And the LORD uprooted them from their land in anger, in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.’*

6. **God did not separate Himself from the people. The iniquities of the people separated them from Him.** They broke the Covenant with God which required them to separate themselves from other gods and be holy. Instead, they turned to other gods and mixed in with those worshipping other gods from whom He’d commanded them to separate themselves. They broke His Covenant, but He did not break His Covenant. He responded to their actions as the Covenant promised.

**Isaiah 59:1-2**

*Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened,  
That it cannot save;  
Nor His ear heavy,  
That it cannot hear.*

*<sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
And your sins have hidden His face from you,  
So that He will not hear.*

7. **If the people would have forsaken their disobedience, they would have been restored. This is an Old Covenant Principle.** Even though there were curses under the law, GOD PROVIDED a means of forgiveness and restitution. Even under the Law, it is God who initiates reconciliation.

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

8. **Christians are not under the blessings and curses of the law in any way.** Under the Law, sins had to be punished and sacrifices made. Under grace, we have been set free from the curse of the law, and Jesus already made the ultimate sacrifice for our sins promising to remember them NO MORE.

**Galatians 3:13**

*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”).*

**Hebrews 10:12-18**

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,<sup>13</sup> from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. <sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

<sup>15</sup> But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,<sup>16</sup> "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," <sup>17</sup> then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." <sup>18</sup> Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.

**Myth #3 God Could Not Look at Jesus as He Bore Our Sins on the Cross**

9. Traditionally, it has been taught that when the sky went dark for three hours while Jesus was dying on the cross and bearing our sin, that this was because God could not look upon sin. Some even go so far as to say that because Jesus bore our sins that God the Father separated Himself from God the Son. Multiple songs and books have been written reinforcing this.
10. **Fact: NO WHERE** in Scripture does it say that God turned away from Jesus because He could not look upon sin NOR that this is why the skies got dark. Seriously! It is not written anywhere. (I can't put a reference here because there isn't one. It is not recorded. This is an idea that is not supported by Scripture.)
11. **Fact: Many commentators do not interpret the darkness as God turning away from Jesus, but see it as a sign of sympathy, a heralding of his death, or an expression of divine anger toward the sin the Jews were committing.**

*When we consider what was being done on Calvary, who it was that was dying there, what was the object of his Passion, what was the infinite and unspeakable effect of the sacrifice there offered, is it wonderful that the Divine Architect controlled Nature to sympathize with her Creator, that as a supernatural effulgence heralded the Saviour's birth, a supernatural darkness should shroud his death?—Pulpit Commentary*

*The only cause of this was the interposing power of God - furnishing testimony to the dignity of the sufferer, and causing the elements to sympathize with the pains of his dying Son.  
-Barnes Notes on the Bible*

12. **Fact: Jesus was our Passover Lamb.**

*1 Corinthians 5:7b*

*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

*John 1:29*

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

13. **Fact: God did not turn away from the Passover sacrifice, but rather looked upon it.**

*Exodus 12:13 (The first Passover)*

*Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And **when I see the blood**, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

*Exodus 12:23*

*For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and **when He sees the blood** on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.*

- Lev. 1, 3 The offering is described as a sweet fragrance unto the Lord.
- Lev. 2 The grain sacrifices were called "most holy to the Lord"
- Lev. 4 It says the bull shall be killed "before the Lord"

14. God the Father did not turn away from our Passover Lamb, Jesus. He looked upon His blood and forgave all of our sin.

15. If God was beholding our Passover Lamb, then why did Jesus say, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Let us consider these facts first before we try to answer this question.

- The only sense in which God forsook Jesus is that it was His will for Him to suffer for sins. Did Jesus know “why” God the Father was allowing Him to be crucified? Yes, of course He did. He was God. So, why did he ask Him why?
- Jesus was God. His mission was not only to reveal God the Father through His life on earth, but also to give His life to “take away” our sins. He was not surprised or confused about why He was dying on a cross. So, it is safe to conclude that Jesus did not mean that He didn’t know why it was God’s will for him to die. He was not surprised by anything that happened that day.

**Matthew 20:28**

*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

**John 10:11**

*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

- He gave His life willingly. Even though God’s will was that He be crucified for us, Jesus could have stopped this scene at any time.

**Matthew 26:50-54**

*But Jesus said to him, “Friend, why have you come?”*

*Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. <sup>51</sup> And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.*

*<sup>52</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?*

- Did God the Father separate Himself from God the Son while He was bearing the sins of the world on the cross? NO! God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are ONE GOD, and cannot ever be separated.

- Where was God the Father?

**Romans 5:10**

*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was **in Christ** reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

- Where was God the Father when Jesus was reconciling the world to Himself?  
→IN CHRIST...IN, NOT SEPARATED FROM...CHRIST←

16. Then, what did Jesus mean when He said, “My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?” Allow me to present to you, my hypothesis (and note that this is not only my hypothesis, but others agree): Since God beheld the blood of the original Passover lamb, since Jesus willingly gave Himself fully understanding what would happen, AND most importantly SINCE GOD WAS IN CHRIST and not separated from Him, it cannot be that He was separated from God. The reason He said this was to point out to the Jews that prophecy was being fulfilled before their very eyes.

FACTS:

- Jesus was quoting from Psalm 22.

- The Jews would recognize that this line was the beginning of Psalm 22.
- Jesus knew the Jews would recognize this passage that foretold of His death by crucifixion (a punishment which did not exist at the time the psalm was written. They would see that this Psalm was actually a prophecy about the Messiah, Jesus.
- NOTICE IN PARTICULAR VERSE 24 which state clearly that God DID NOT HIDE HIS FACE from Jesus.

*Psalm 22***My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**

Why are You so far from helping Me,  
And from the words of My groaning?

<sup>2</sup> O My God, I cry in the daytime, but  
You do not hear;

And in the night season, and am not  
silent.

<sup>3</sup> But You are holy,  
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> Our fathers trusted in You;  
They trusted, and You delivered them.

<sup>5</sup> They cried to You, and were  
delivered;

They trusted in You, and were not  
ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and no man;  
A reproach of men, and despised by  
the people.

<sup>7</sup> All those who see Me ridicule Me;  
They shoot out the lip, they shake  
the head, saying,

<sup>8</sup> **“He trusted in the LORD, let Him  
rescue Him;**

**Let Him deliver Him, since He  
delights in Him!”**

<sup>9</sup> But You are He who took Me out of the  
womb;

You made Me trust while on My mother’s  
breasts.

<sup>10</sup> I was cast upon You from birth.

From My mother’s womb

You have been My God.

<sup>11</sup> Be not far from Me,

For trouble is near;

For there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup> Many bulls have surrounded Me;

Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

<sup>13</sup> They gape at Me with their mouths,  
Like a raging and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,

And all My bones are out of joint;

My heart is like wax;

It has melted within Me.

<sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd,

And My tongue clings to My jaws;

You have brought Me to the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded Me;

The congregation of the wicked has  
enclosed Me.

**They pierced My hands and My feet;**

**<sup>17</sup> I can count all My bones.**

**They look and stare at Me.**

**<sup>18</sup> They divide My garments among them,**

**And for My clothing they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup> But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me;

O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

<sup>20</sup> Deliver Me from the sword,

My precious life from the power of the dog.

<sup>21</sup> Save Me from the lion’s mouth

And from the horns of the wild oxen!

You have answered Me.

<sup>22</sup> I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise Him!

All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,

And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

**<sup>24</sup> For He has not despised nor abhorred the  
affliction of the afflicted;**

**Nor has He hidden His face from Him;**

**But when He cried to Him, He heard.**

**Myth #4 (Myth #2Expanded) Christians Become Estranged from God When They Sin (AKA We break fellowship with God when we sin. God leaves us when we sin. God can’t look on us when we sin. We fall from grace when we sin. Deliberate sin has no forgiveness.)**

**17. Truth: All of our sins (past, present, and future) are forgiven.**

**Hebrews 10:11-14**

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. <sup>14</sup> **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

**18. Truth: He promises to remember our sins no more.**

**Hebrews 10:15-18**

*But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before,*

*<sup>16</sup> “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” <sup>17</sup> **then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”** <sup>18</sup> Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.*

**19. Truth: He does not keep an accounting of our sins.**

**Romans 4:8**

*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.*

**20. Truth: To become “estranged from Christ” or to “fall from grace” is not due to sins of the flesh. This happens when we stop living by grace through faith, and try to be justified by law through works.**

**Galatians 5:1-4**

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. <sup>2</sup> Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You have become estranged from Christ, **you who attempt to be justified by law**; you have fallen from grace.*

**21. Truth: All sinning is on purpose. The sin spoken of as “willful” sin is that of rejecting Jesus.**

**Hebrews 10:26-29**

*For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup> but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. <sup>28</sup> Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. <sup>29</sup> Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*

**22. Truth: At no time when we sin are we separated from God.**

**1 Corinthians 6:13-20**

*Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup> And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.*

*<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” <sup>17</sup> **But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.***

*<sup>18</sup> Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

- **When we commit sexual immorality, God is in us. “THEREFORE” (because you are His temple and one spirit with him), glorify God in your body!**

**Back to Our Key Verse**

**Corinthians 5:18-19**

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup> that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

- God could not have turned His face from Jesus while He was on the cross.
- He was IN CHRIST.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are ONE! They cannot be divided EVER.
- Just as Jesus was in Christ when He became our sacrifice and God was not imputing our sins against us, so God is in us when we sin, not imputing our sins against us. He has promised to never leave us or forsake us, and we are ONE SPIRIT with Him. ALL of God dwells in us.