

PARTY POOPER
Versions of God – Part 2

ON TV: NONE's

ON TV: On-Demand God.

ON TV: *"I prayed about it. God didn't do it. Therefore, I don't believe in God. God should do exactly what I want."*

ON TV: On-Demand God doesn't exist.

ON TV: *"I want to believe in God, but there are just **too many rules** and life is meant to be enjoyed."*

ON TV: *"I've met so many Christians and I just didn't like them. They seemed to be **hypocritical, judgmental, and holier-than-Thou**. They claimed one thing and then would do something else. How could I become that?"*

ON TV: *"My life is going fine. Why should I follow a God who tells me what to do, when it really gets in the way of what **I want to do**?"*

ON TV: Party Pooper God.

ON TV: Religion focuses on the **external**, rather than the **internal**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"25 Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you **hypocrites!** You clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside they're full of greed and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee! First **clean the inside** of the cup and the dish, **and then** the outside also will be clean." Matthew 23:25-26*

ON TV: We try to close the gap between our sinfulness and God's holiness by **trying harder, being better, and doing religious things**.

ON TV: *"Because the Bible says so. If the Bible said, that settles it, so just believe it."*

ON TV/OUTLINE: They were **TOLD** by someone that this is what God is like. And they were **TAUGHT** the **BIBLE** says this is what God is like.

ON TV:

- I have to go to **church**.
- I have to give some **money**.
- I have to be **nice**.
- Don't **drink**.
- Don't **smoke**.
- Don't hang out with people who **don't believe in God**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"3...Don't follow the example of the Pharisees for they don't practice what they teach. 4 They **crush people with unbearable religious demands**, and they never lift a finger to ease the burden." Matthew 23:3-4*

ON TV: The laws God established are **not to confine us**, but to **free us** to have the life that God wants us to live through Jesus Christ.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"20 Therefore, **no one will be declared righteous** in God's sight by works of the law; rather **through the law we become conscious of our sin**. 21 Now, a righteousness from God, apart from the law, has been made known to which the law and the prophets testify. 22 This righteousness from God **comes through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who believe..." Romans 3:20-22*

ON TV/OUTLINE: We cannot **EARN** God's acceptance by obeying the law.

ON TV: *"Therefore, **no one will be declared righteous** in God's sight **by works of the law**..." Romans 3:20*

ON TV: So why in the world did God give us the law? If we can't live up to it, then why did God give it to us in the first place?

ON TV/OUTLINE: The purpose of the law is to show us our **NEED OF A SAVIOR**.

ON TV: *"Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by works of the law; rather **through the law we become conscious of our sin.**" Romans 3:20*

ON TV: *"I'm not a bad person."*

ON TV: Every single one of us **are sinners**.

ON TV: How many of you have ever told a **lie**?

ON TV: How many of you have ever **stole something**?

ON TV: How many of you have ever **lusted**?

ON TV: When we go through life saying, *"I'm not a bad person,"* we then don't recognize that **we need** the forgiveness and the goodness of God.

ON TV/OUTLINE: Being right with God comes by faith in **CHRIST ALONE**.

ON TV: *This righteousness is **given through faith in Jesus Christ** to all who **believe...**" Romans 3:22*

ON TV: Religion is all about **performance**. Christianity is all about the **perfect work of Jesus**. Religion is all about what **I do**. Christianity is all about what **Jesus did**.

ON TV: *"Because **God loves me**, and because **I'm accepted** in Christ, **I choose** to obey, and **I want** to follow His ways."*

ON TV: Religion **adds complexity** to the **simplicity** of the Gospel.

ON TV: He wasn't taking their **freedom of choice**. He was offering them the **freedom of blessings**.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"**The boundary lines** have fallen for me in **pleasant places...**" Psalm 16:6*

ON TV: We don't have to obey the boundaries or the laws **to please God**. But because of **His grace, we choose** to live within those boundaries so we can experience the life He intended for us to have.

ON TV: Religion focuses on the external and **complicates** with laws. Jesus **simplifies** with love.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"36 'Teacher, which is the **greatest commandment**?' 37 'Above all else, the most important thing is to **love the Lord your God with everything in you, your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love your neighbor just as you love yourself.**" Matthew 22:36-37*

ON TV: Religion **complicates** with laws. Jesus **simplifies** with love.

ON TV: When we're in a relationship with Christ the **boundary lines fall in pleasant places**. We don't have to obey to receive His love. We choose to obey out of an **act of worship** for who God is.

ON TV/OUTLINE: *"4 'In the law, Moses commanded us to stone such a woman. What do you say?' 6...But Jesus knelt down and started writing on the ground with his finger. 8 'If any one of you has not sinned, you throw the first rock.' 10 'Where are your condemners?' 11 She said, 'There are none.' 'Then **neither do I condemn you**. Go your way and don't sin anymore.'" John 8:4,6,8, 10-11*

ON TV: Because we have been **loved by Christ**, we **choose** to follow Him.

ON TV: “20 ...So they brought boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. 21 ‘How long as this been happening?’ Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, ‘Since he was a little boy. 22 The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, **if you can.**’ 23 ‘What do you mean, ‘If I can’?’ Jesus asked. ‘Anything is possible if a person believes. 24 The father instantly cried out, ‘**I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief.**’” Mark 9:20-24