

God's Love?

Have you ever wondered how God could possibly love you? Have you ever wondered about your salvation? Have you ever felt like you are just too wretched to go to heaven? Years ago, I had a conversation with a lady in her 80's. She was so poised, so "together". In Sunday School class she would add provocative statements that really got you to think. You could see the love of Christ in her. She was a pillar of the church. But one day as she and I had a conversation, she confessed, I HOPE I go to heaven. It took me aback. If this lifelong Christian had salvation concerns, where does that leave me? Now, as I get older, I sometimes wonder. I think that the older we get, the more we see our sin. Yes, we all sin, we hear that a lot. It helps us to not condemn ourselves too greatly. After all, that is really God's job. And that is exactly why God sent His son to die in our place.

I am not an evil person. I have never murdered anyone, I have never robbed a bank, but I am a sinner. The Ten Commandments, at first glance sound fairly easy. But when you delve in a little deeper.... 1st) As much as I love God, I put things before him. 3rd) I used to take His name in vain, until I realized how much it hurts him, by then it was habit and I needed to ask Him to help me stop. He did. 4th) the Sabbath, we don't skip church unless we are sick or out of town. Neither one happens often. We have been known to use Sunday as a workday. We don't as much now because we both have more time. 5th) This can be a tough one. I want to say, "define honor". Not everything that comes out of my mouth about my dad is honoring. We haven't always had an easy relationship. Then we come to #6. Thou shalt not kill. THAT'S easy! But is it? In confirmation we learned that you can "assassinate a person's reputation" by gossiping. Words have strong effect. #8 Thou shalt not commit adultery. Now most of us have not committed adultery but the bible says if you lust after a person in your heart, it is the same. I met a couple while showing them homes years ago. At first, they were very rude and disrespectful of each other. I thought this marriage is in trouble, but I realize the stresses of marriage, and they were both such nice people... We became friends through the process, and I found out that he had been unfaithful. Yet they pulled it together with God's help and now have a ministry thru their church to mentor marriages. They are fully restored but they went through so much to get there.

God's way would have been so much easier!! 8th) So, I already said I have never robbed a bank. Although I did hear a preacher some yrs ago say that you should not take so much as a paper clip from your office. This made me take stock.... I am not sure we should get too legalistic about paper clips, but beyond that, we need to be careful. 9) Bear false witness.... This is SO easy to do when others are talking about someone. Then we say, it's not false, it's true. So, does that make it more acceptable to God? (these seem to be getting harder to follow as we go). Finally, 10. This maybe the harder one for me at times. Do not covet. A friend said, "how do I not covet when I look at Facebook and all I see are people traveling, on their boats, doing exotic fun things that I will never do. I get this. I didn't really have an answer for her. It is the American way to want the biggest house, the most expensive cars and all the toys. Yep, there's another commandment I struggle with occasionally. So yes, I wonder how God can love me. But since Jesus died for my sins, he sees me through that veil. He sees me white as snow. It makes me want to be better. It makes me want to please Him, because He has the right to expect me to "go and sin no more".

Father, help us to do better. Help us to seek you every day. Cleanse my heart and know me, Lord. Amen

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