

# Read this at your Table.

## Romans 3 (NLT)

<sup>10</sup> **No one** is righteous - not even one. <sup>20</sup> **No one** can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

<sup>21</sup> ***But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law.***

<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for **everyone** who believes, no matter who we are. <sup>23</sup> For **everyone** has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

<sup>24</sup> Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty of sins. <sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for our sin.

***People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.***

<sup>26</sup> God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on **faith**.

## Romans 5 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

# Answer these Questions.

**Opening Prayer:** Lord, help us to hear from you today. Our temptation is to hide behind the facade of *"I'm doing O.K."* and *"Things are great"* . . . but today we pray that your Word will open our hearts to you and to each other. May we feel loved, forgiven, and changed because of what we hear today. Thank you for the gift of scripture and the gift of community. In Jesus name we pray - Amen.

**Q:** How do you typically respond when you feel afraid, ashamed, or guilty?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ignore** it and hope it goes away.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hide** it and hope no-one finds out.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Confess** it and ask for help.

**Q:** Describe how you feel about this statement:  
*"God didn't create you to live with shame!"*

**Q:** Do you believe that God would forgive you if you *"came out of the bushes"* with your sin?

**Q:** Are you ready to *"be right"* with God?

# Come out of the Bushes

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***God is still calling GUILTY men to come out of the bushes and walk in FREEDOM.***

## **Genesis 3 (NLT)**

<sup>7</sup> At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. <sup>8</sup> When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. ***So they hid*** from the Lord God among the trees. <sup>9</sup> Then the Lord God called to the man, ***“Where are you?”***

**Q:** What bushes are you hiding behind?

**Q:** How long are you going to stay there?

## **Genesis 3 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> He replied, “I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked.” <sup>11</sup> “Who told you that you were naked?” the Lord God asked. “Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man replied, “It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God asked the woman, “What have you done?” “The serpent deceived me,” she replied. “That’s why I ate it.”

## **3 Consequences of Sin:**

- Fear
- Shame
- Blame

***The problem with SIN is that it  
SEPARATES you from God.***

**Genesis 3 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup> Then the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, you are cursed... <sup>15</sup> and I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He [Jesus] will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife, and **he clothed them**.

*God covered the GUILTY with the INNOCENT.*

**5 things you must BELIEVE.** *(to become a Christian)*

**1. Your sin SEPARATES you from GOD.**

**Romans 3 (NLT)**

<sup>10</sup> No one is righteous - not even one... <sup>23</sup> For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

**2. Your GOOD works will never be GOOD enough.**

**Romans 3 (NLT)**

<sup>20</sup> No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are... <sup>27b</sup> Our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith.

**3. Your BAD works will never be too BAD.**

**Romans 3 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who you are.

#### 4. God's JUSTICE requires PAYMENT for your sin.

##### Romans 5 (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

#### 5. God's LOVE provided the full and final payment through JESUS.

##### Romans 3 (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for our sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.

### Are you ready to say YES to Jesus?

#### 1. REPENT.

*Repentance is turning from sin and to God.*

##### Acts 3 (NLT)

<sup>19</sup> Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

##### 2 Peter 3 (KJV)

<sup>9b</sup> [God is] not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

#### 2. CONFESS.

*Confession is agreeing with God about your sin.*

##### Romans 6 (NLT)

<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

##### Romans 10 (NLT)

<sup>13</sup> Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

### 3. **BELIEVE.**

*Salvation is a free gift from God through Jesus.*

#### **Ephesians 2**

<sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

### 4. **RECEIVE.**

*God gives you with his Spirit at Salvation.*

#### **Acts 2**

<sup>8</sup> [Jesus said,] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."

### **PRAYER OF SALVATION.**

*God - I've been telling you **NO** and today I'm saying **YES!** I'm done making excuses. I'm done playing games. I'm done running and hiding. I'm done chasing anything other than **YOU**.*

*Today - I'm believing and receiving the free gift of **JESUS** as the full and final payment for my sin. I'm trusting in your good works not mine.*

*Thank you for being my father, my forgiver, my savior, and my friend. Thank you for taking my sin, shame, and guilt and replacing it with **"All Things New."***

**Did you pray that prayer today?**

**Welcome to the Family of God!**