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## Jesus Changes Everything

### *Our Separation from God → Reconciliation to God*

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:22-24; Isaiah 59:2; Matthew 1:23; John 14:2-3, 26-27, Corinthians 5:17-19; Ephesians 1:13-14; Revelation 21:3

**Spotlight:** Sin separates us from God. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. The Holy Spirit lives within us and one day we will live in God's glorious presence forever.

**Summary:** Most people recognize that something is wrong with the world. We experience broken relationships, loneliness, injustice, disease, grief, and death. But the Bible reveals that these are symptoms of a deeper problem: humanity has been separated from God.

We were created by God and for God. We were made to know Him, love Him, worship Him, and live in fellowship with Him. Therefore, our greatest need is not improvement, comfort, success, or even happiness. Our greatest need is to be brought back to God.

The good news of the gospel is not that Jesus came to make our earthly lives better. Jesus came to bring separated sinners back into fellowship with God.

### 1. **Separation From God is Caused By Sin** **Genesis 3:22-24;** **Isaiah 59:2**

#### **Genesis 3:22-24**

22 Then the Lord God said, "Look, the human beings have become like us, knowing both good and evil. What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!" 23 So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden, and he sent Adam out to cultivate the ground from which he had been made. 24 After

sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

### ***We were created to live in God's presence***

Genesis begins with humanity enjoying what we were created to experience: unhindered fellowship with God. Adam and Eve knew God's presence without fear, guilt, shame, or death.

God was not distant from them. They lived under His loving authority and enjoyed His generous provision.

### ***Sin destroys fellowship with God***

When Adam and Eve sinned, they did more than violate a rule. They rejected God's authority, distrusted His goodness, and chose independence from Him.

The immediate consequences were:

- Guilt, Shame, Conflict, Fear, Hiding, Expulsion
- Physical and spiritual death

*Before sin*, Adam and Eve welcomed God's presence.

*After sin*, they hid from Him.

### ***Sin caused separation***

Genesis 3:24 says that God expelled Adam and Eve from the garden and stationed cherubim to guard the way to the tree of life. The closed entrance to Eden became a visible picture of humanity's spiritual condition: sinful people could not simply walk back into the holy presence of God. Isaiah later explained: "It's your sins that have cut you off from God." **Isaiah 59:2**

God did not cease to exist, and God did not stop loving His creation. But sin destroyed the fellowship humanity had been created to enjoy.

### ***Separation is more than a feeling***

A person may feel close to God and still be spiritually separated from Him. Another person may belong to Christ and temporarily feel distant from God. Our spiritual standing cannot be determined by feelings alone.

### ***Sin creates an objective problem before a holy God:***

- We are guilty.
- We cannot erase our guilt.
- We cannot make ourselves righteous.
- We cannot repair the relationship through human effort.
- We cannot find our own way back into God's presence.

Religion may make us more respectable. Good works may make us better neighbors. But neither can remove our sin.

### ***Sin still causes us to hide***

Adam's response remains humanity's response. We hide behind achievement, religion, morality, possessions, pleasure, busyness, excuses, and comparison. But God's question still confronts every hiding heart: "Where are you?" Genesis 3:9 God did not ask because He had lost Adam. He asked because Adam was lost and needed to recognize where sin had taken him.

Sin always takes us farther from God than we intended to go and leaves us unable to find our own way home.

We could not find our way back to God, so God came to us.

### **Luke 19:10**

Jesus said, "The Son of Man, came to seek and to save the Lost."

## **2. Reconciliation to God is Made Possible by Jesus - Matthew 1:23**

### **Matthew 1:23**

They will call him Immanuel, which means God is with us.

The name Immanuel announces the heart of the gospel. Jesus is not merely a teacher telling us how to reach God. He is God the Son coming to rescue us.

Sin caused humanity to be expelled from God's presence, but grace brought God into our world. We cannot gain access to heaven, so Jesus came down to us.

### **Matthew 10:40**

Anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

### **Romans 5:10**

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**

17 anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! 18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Jesus did not come simply to share our circumstances; He came to bear our condemnation.

At the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the judgment our sin deserved. The sinless Son of God experienced abandonment so that separated sinners could be welcomed home.

### **Matthew 27:46**

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Jesus entered the darkness of judgment so that we could enter the light of God's presence.

The torn Temple curtain gives us a powerful picture of this truth. When Jesus died, the curtain separating the Most Holy Place was torn from top to bottom. God was declaring that through Christ, the way into His presence had been opened.

### ***Reconciliation becomes relationship***

John 17 shows that Jesus brings us into a living relationship with God and with His people.

### **John 17:22-23**

22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

### ***Reconciled people become reconciling people***

### **Matthew 10:40**

Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

The gospel never ends with us. God gives reconciled people the wonderful message of reconciliation.

We cannot reconcile people to God through our own power, but we can faithfully tell them what God has done through Jesus.

Jesus accomplished our reconciliation at the cross, and the Holy Spirit now makes God's presence real within us while guaranteeing what is still to come.

### **3. Union With God Forever is Guaranteed** - John 14:1-3, 16:5-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; Revelation 21:3

Sin drove us from God's presence → Jesus came as God with us → the Spirit makes God present within us → eternity brings us into God's unhindered presence forever.

Our assurance is not grounded in wishful thinking or religious emotion. Our future with God is guaranteed by what God has promised, what Jesus has accomplished, and whom the Holy Spirit indwells.

*God's Word gives us His promise*

#### **John 14:3**

When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

Christian assurance rests on the trustworthiness of Jesus. Our future is secure because the One who promised it cannot lie.

#### ***Jesus' completed work gives us access to God***

Jesus' finished work is sufficient to save completely everyone who comes to God through Him.

Our confidence is not, "I hope I've done enough." Our assurance is, "Jesus paid it all."

#### ***The Holy Spirit is God's presence in us***

Through the Holy Spirit, "God with us" becomes "God within us."

The Christian life is not waiting alone for Jesus to return. God is already present with and within every believer through His Spirit.

#### ***The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee***

### **Ephesians 1:14**

The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised.

The Holy Spirit's presence today guarantees the fullness of our presence with God forever.

We can describe salvation in three movements:

- God came to us in Jesus.
- God lives within us through the Holy Spirit.
- God will dwell with us forever in the new creation.

### ***Revelation reveals our eternal destination***

### **Revelation 21:3**

Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people.

The Bible begins with people driven from God's presence and eternally separated from Him, but it ends with God dwelling among His redeemed people forever.

The great hope of Revelation 21 is the greatest gift of eternity, God Himself.

In the new creation:

- Sin will never again separate us.
- Shame will never again make us hide.
- Temptation will never again draw us away.
- Suffering will never again trouble us.
- Disease will never again make us sick.
- Death will never again divide us.
- Nothing will ever again interrupt our fellowship with God.

The gospel takes us from God's presence lost, to God's presence restored, to God's presence enjoyed forever.

The story of the Bible can be traced through the presence of God:

- In **Eden**, humanity lived with God but lost that fellowship through sin.
- In **Bethlehem**, God came to live among us in Jesus.
- At **Calvary**, Jesus removed the sin that separated us from God.
- At **Pentecost**, God came to live within His people through the Holy Spirit.
- In the **Church**, we celebrate the presence of God among His people.

- In the **new creation**, God will dwell with His people forever.

The gospel is not only that Jesus saves us from hell. The gospel is that Jesus brings us to God.

Stop hiding. Stop running. Stop trying to repair through human effort what only Jesus can restore. Come to Christ, be reconciled to God, walk daily in the presence of His Spirit, and live with the assurance that one day you will see Him face-to-face.

Sin separated humanity from the God who created us for fellowship with Himself. Banished from Eden, we were unable to overcome our guilt or find our own way back into His holy presence. But God came to us in Jesus Christ—Immanuel, “God with us.” Through His death and resurrection, Jesus bore our sin, opened the way to the Father, and made reconciliation possible for everyone who repents and believes. God now lives within every believer through the Holy Spirit, whose presence is the guarantee of our eternal inheritance. One day, every remaining barrier will disappear, and God will dwell with His redeemed people forever. Jesus changes everything: He changes separation from God into reconciliation with God, fellowship with God, and finally the glorious presence of God forever.

**Next Steps:** Stop hiding from God. Come to Jesus in faith, walk in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and live with the assurance that you will be with God forever.

### Life Application:

1. Where am I still hiding from God instead of honestly confessing my sin and receiving His grace?
2. Am I trusting completely in Jesus’ finished work, or am I still relying on my morality, religious activity, church membership, baptism or good intentions to make me acceptable to God?
3. Have I personally been reconciled to God through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ?
4. What would change in my decisions, attitudes, and relationships if I lived consciously aware that God’s Spirit is present within me?

5. Is there a damaged relationship in which God is calling me, as someone reconciled to Him, to pursue forgiveness, peace, or restoration?
6. Who in my life needs to hear God's wonderful message of reconciliation, and how can I share that message effectively this week?
7. Am I living primarily for the comforts of this temporary world, or with the confident hope that I will live in God's glorious presence forever?