

The Bridge1 **“Our Pre-Existing Condition”**

A bridge is a way to make the impassable passable. It makes a “can’t” a “can.” It gives access where there was no access. A bridge is a wonderful thing. It allows someone to go somewhere. This new series is using a bridge as a metaphor of a person’s ongoing relationship with God. That once perfect relationship between a Creator and His creation was broken in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God. The ultimate Bridge that restores God and man’s relationship is Jesus! From that starting point of restoration and salvation, our relationship with a Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ grows stronger over time. Our trust in Him grows over a lifetime of events that we all inevitably face; it establishes a durable relationship that God desires with us.

The bridge of fellowship was broken when Adam and Eve sinned.

Romans 5:12 NAS

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

-Ever since sin was introduced into our world, sin has separated us from a Holy God.

So God, the Bridge Builder, provided a way for relationship with sinful man without violating His own character.

-In the Old Testament, an unblemished animal was killed, shed its blood, for a person’s atonement or forgiveness for their sin. A sacrificial system was set up for the Israelites, God’s people.

-In the New Testament, Jesus established a new covenant where He became the “Lamb of God” that took on the world’s sin, and offered sinful people salvation (forgiveness) if they believed in Him. This new covenant involved being born again.

John 1:29 NAS

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

The Bridge Builder initiates a plan.

John 3:1-1-21 NAS

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews;

2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

6 "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

*7 "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
8 "The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
9 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can these things be?"
10 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?
11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.
12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?
13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.
14 "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;
15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life.
16 **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**
17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.
18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.
20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.
21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

***3 Observations about John 3:16:**

Everyone is welcome.
Everyone gets in the same way.
Everyone can meet the requirement.

When we enter into this faith agreement with the Bridge Builder, He provides the access for our bridge of trust in Him.

So for the sake of this series about your relationship with God, let me ask you a question...how's your bridge?

Bottom Line – Jesus is the only Bridge that gives us a future with real hope!