

# OUR DILEMMA, GOD'S SOLUTION

## THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Romans 3:23 tells us, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Most of us assume “sin” refers only to the really bad acts, like murder. But sin is anything that breaks God’s laws, and it’s impossible to go through life without sinning. Look at the Ten Commandments, for example. Here are three of the 10, from Exodus 20:3-17:

*You shall not lie.*

*You shall not steal.*

*You shall not take the name of God in vain.*

If you’ve broken any of these commandments—even little “white” lies or stealing a pen that doesn’t belong to you—you’re guilty of breaking God’s laws. And that sin creates a gap between you and God.

None of us has treasured God the way we should. We’ve sought to satisfy ourselves with other things and treated those things as more valuable than God. We’ve gone our own way.

According to the Bible, we have to pay a penalty for our sin. We can’t simply do whatever we want and hope it will all be okay with God. Proverbs 14:12 tells us, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

The penalty for sin is eternal punishment and separation from God. And no matter how hard we try, we cannot make up for the sin that we have committed. All our “good works” won’t fix it. God is holy, and we are sinful. In order to enter heaven, God demands perfection, and we know no one can be perfect.

So where does that leave us?

## GOD’S SOLUTION

Thankfully, God solved our dilemma. He became a man through the person of Jesus Christ, who lived a holy and perfect life in obedience to God’s plan. He also willingly died on a cross to pay our penalty for sin. Then He proved He is more powerful than sin or death by rising from the dead.

He alone has the power to overrule the penalty for our sin.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **(JOHN 14:6)**

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **(ROMANS 5:8)**

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(ROMANS 6:23)**

The death of Jesus fixed our sin problem. He bridged the gap between God and us. And He calls all of us to come to Him and give up our own flawed plan for how to run our lives. He wants us to trust God and His plan.

## ACCEPTING GOD’S SOLUTION

If you agree that your sin is separating you from God, He is calling you to confess those sins. When we admit we have rebelled against His plan for us and have messed up our lives, He forgives us and fixes our sin problem.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **(JOHN 1:12)**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **(EPHESIANS 2:8-9)**

When the Bible talks about “receiving Christ,” it means acknowledging our sinfulness and our inability to fix the problem. It means we turn away from our sin. And it means we trust Christ to forgive our sins and make us the kind of people He wants us to be.

It’s not enough to just intellectually believe Christ is the Son of God. We must trust in Him and His plan for our lives by faith.

Are things right between you and God, with Him and His plan at the center of your life? Or is life spinning out of control as you seek to make your own way?

You can decide today to make a change. You can turn to Christ and allow Him to transform your life. All you need to do is talk to Him and tell Him what is stirring in your mind and in your heart. And Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

If you’re ready to make this change, you can pray right now. Consider this suggested prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Amen.*