

1

God loves you and created you to know Him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

God's Plan

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." (John 17:3)



What prevents us from knowing God personally?

2

People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love.

People Are Sinful

"...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
(Romans 3:23)

People were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

People Are Separated

"For the wages of sin is death..."
[*spiritual separation from God*] (Romans 6:23)

GOD**PEOPLE**

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and people are sinful. A great chasm separates the two. The arrows illustrate that we are continually trying to reach God and establish a personal relationship with Him through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy or religion, but we inevitably fail.



The third principle explains the only way to bridge this gap...

3

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience His love and plan.

He Died in Our Place

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

He Rose From the Dead

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the Twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'" (John 14:6)



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the chasm that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



The fourth principle explains it's not enough to just know these truths...

4

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love and plan for us.

We Must Receive Christ

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

We Receive Christ Through Faith

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth

(Read John 3:1-8)

We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive us of our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of our will.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives.

A life entrusted to Christ. Christ is central and on the throne, and self yields to Christ.



A life without Jesus Christ. Self is central and on the throne and Jesus Christ (t) is on the outside.