

WHO IS GOD?

Intro: Some have heard this before. It's OK!
- Philip 3:16 "It is no problem for me to remind..."

Q: WHY is this topic important? Because...
- "Spending eternity in heaven means..."

DIAGNOSTIC QUESTIONS:

1. If you died tonight, how sure are you...?
2. Why should God let you into heaven?



WHO IS GOD ... TO US?

I. He is our Creator.

Note: There is only ONE true God; **Trinity:** "One WHAT, three WHO's"

Is. 44:24a This is what the LORD says — who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things.

Note: God has right to expect things from you. **ILL: Cup:** Use for drinking or digging!

A. God made us to LOVE us. (Relationship)

Psalms 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving towards all he has made.

ILL: Marriage – it's NOT impersonal!

B. God made us to be like HIMSELF. (Purpose)

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness."

Ephesians 4:24b Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

II. He is our Judge.

Note: God is "Morally responsible" for his creation

- Don't Kill**
- Don't Steal**
- Don't Swear**
- Don't Lie**
- Don't Covet**
- No Adultery**
- Honor Parents**
- No Idols**
- Sabbath Holy**
- No other Gods**

A. God has standards for ALL He has made.

Exodus 20 **The Ten Commandments**

B. God's standard is PERFECTION because He Himself is perfect.

Matthew 5:48 Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

V [Watch over or make right]

C. God will judge EVERYTHING He has made by His standards of perfection.

Genesis 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing... treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

EX: If kids break something ... Parents pay! ;-)

WHERE DO WE STAND BEFORE GOD?

I. We have fallen short of God's standards.

EX: "Sin"=Archery term!

A. We have fallen short of God's standards and brought evil into His creation. (SIN)

Romans 3:23b for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Ecclesiastes 7:20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

1 John 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

II. God Judges.

A. God judges our DEEDS, our THOUGHTS, and even our WORDS.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

Matthew 5:28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

B. Our HEARTS have rejected God's place of being first in our lives. (REBELLION)

Isaiah 53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...

Isaiah 30:9 These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD's instruction.

Q: Have you ever sinned?

Trans: What do you think that does to your relationship with God?

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN AND REBELLIION?

I. Anxiety, Pain, GUILT and Emptiness

Proverbs 14:12-13 There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death. Even in laughter the heart may be in pain, And the end of joy may be grief.

Jeremiah 4:18 Your own conduct and actions have brought this upon you. How bitter it is! How it pierces to the heart! **EX:** Recently, I've seen bad choices ruin marriages!

II. SEPARATION from God **Creates** "unfinished business" between you and God

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. **EX:** Relationships at church ("I'm not coming if THEY are there!")

III. JUDGEMENT by God **Three types of death...**

1. Physical 2. Spiritual 3. Eternal

A. God's judgment on sin is DEATH.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; **Ezekiel 18:4** The soul who sins shall die.

B. Death ultimately means an ETERNAL separation from God.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 He will punish those who do not know God ...They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

Trans: What are some ways that people try to bridge this gap?

WHAT IF WE WANT TO MAKE UP FOR WHAT WE HAVE DONE WRONG?

Job 25:4 How can a man stand before God and claim to be righteous? Who in all the earth can boast that he is clean?

QT: Rebecca Pippert: "It's a profound mystery that the Son of God visited This planet, and the chief complaint against him was that he was not Religious enough." (Out Of The Salt Shaker)

I. Our RELIGION Isn't Enough.

A. Listen to Jesus' words to some of the most religious people on earth:

Matthew 7:22-23 Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

B. The benefit of religion is that it can teach us what is right and wrong. However, God's penalty for doing wrong is not going to church, it is DEATH.

III: Drivers Ed – teach you to drive.

II. Our GOOD WORKS Aren't Enough.

Isaiah 64:6 All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

Isaiah 57:12 I will expose your righteousness and your works, and they will not benefit you.

III: Cookies (tainted)

A. Good works are certainly admirable and the world needs more of them, but the penalty of God for evil works is not doing good works. God's penalty is DEATH.

III. Doing Our BEST Isn't Enough.

A. No one does their best _____ the time - that's why there is sin.

B. God's STANDARD is based on what we do, not on what we intend.

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law & yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

III: 1 sin per day X 70 years = 25,550 sins!!

C. God's penalty for past sin is not trying harder, it's DEATH.

D. The only thing we can do by BY OURSELVES to make up for our sin is to receive God's penalty for sin: DEATH.

Psalms 49:8 the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough...

Trans: There is some good news... look at next week! ;-)