

The Law, Grace & Passion

You're eating lunch in your favorite restaurant when a clean-cut man in a suit sits beside you and asks your name. Opening his jacket a little to reveal a gun and a badge, he asks you to come peacefully- unless you want to make a scene.

What do you do? What are the charges? Your mind races to anything remotely illegal that you may have done that could justify this...

What dark secrets lie in your past? Nothing illegal you say? Certainly nothing worthy of this scenario? What if we were to include the laws of almighty God?

"What God?" Some might ask "Hasn't science disproved God?" On the contrary, the more molecular biology and other sciences advance, the more we understand the infinitely intelligent design of all living things. The observational, or operational science that builds our technologies and medical advancements was started and developed by men like Isaac Newton, who were inspired by the uniform logical order that exists in our universe and were able to decipher its laws because they knew our wise Creator held those laws in place- so they could be trusted, observed, tested and utilized.

The science that some people *claim* disproves God is **very** different, it is called historical or origin science. Rather than testing and observing facts, since none of us were there, historical scientists can only deduce or guess what happened in the past. But the evidence can be interpreted in many ways and the conclusions are entirely dependent on the researcher's world view. Since most evolutionists are naturalists or humanists by choice, no amount of evidence will convince them that God could possibly exist. Their belief system causes them to intentionally interpret the historical data to *exclude* an intelligent designer but since observable science keeps finding more solid evidence for an intelligent creator, evolutionary theory just keeps evolving and getting more ridiculous as they try to wrangle around the obvious truth...

Could a house exist without a builder- no matter how many millions of years you give it? It's absurd. How much more so, a vast orderly universe perfectly suited to support a biosphere of living creatures that are infinitely more complex than buildings? It's obvious to any reasonable person that any complex creation was intentionally created by an intelligent being, usually for some purpose. Many honest and free thinking scientists recognize the fallacies of evolution; but sadly, there's a political and financial climate in our universities that stifles free academic expression and keeps this failed theory alive. How then can we really know the truth about our origins, our purpose.... and more importantly, our future?

Real "Communication with Extraterrestrial Intelligence" Sadly, some men search for signals from aliens to help explain our existence yet they ignore the clear message from Him who made us in His own image. Thankfully though, God has indeed communicated with us, as might be expected of a loving Creator. The more we learn about the Bible, the more it is clear that only a supernatural source can explain the historical and scientific accuracy of such a broad collection of ancient writings! The Bible's Message is consistent throughout its 66 different books written by at least 39 authors from three continents over nearly two thousand years. No other religious book presents such obvious evidence for supernatural inspiration. The Bible has proven to be this "communication from God". In fact, when an area of observational science makes a new valid discovery, we often find the Bible waiting with the same truth, divinely revealed millennia before man discovered it on his own.

The precepts in this paper are a summary of that consistent message, standing on the authority of the One who created all things- truths derived straight from the Bible: literally the divine history and "instruction manual" for mankind.

You can trust God's Word... more than man's limited knowledge. For example, the Bible says that living things only reproduce "after their own kind". They may adapt and change within a certain kind of plant or animal but it never changes from one kind to another. The small changes that do occur within a kind already had the info for that change in the original genetic code of that kind. This is observable science and in accordance with Genesis in the Bible. Evolutionists imagine a continuous stream of changing kinds all originating from the first "accidental" living organisms. But instead of finding millions of living and dead life forms transitioning from kind to kind- *not even one change of kinds* has ever been observed! After 150 years of looking under every rock for evidence of those changes, they still find only various genetically grouped kinds, just as God said they'd be.

In Genesis 3, Satan tempted Eve by questioning the authority of God's Word. Satan asked her "Did God say" not to eat of this fruit? Eve listened, and



it started the fall of man. In Romans 1:18-32 we read a description of godless men who continue to question and deny the authority of God and His Word. This passage describes the price they pay for it.

Even many Christians have hurt the reputation and message of Christ by trying to fit evolution into the Bible- but the heart of the Bible's history and message totally oppose the theory of evolution on many fronts. If they did not know the differences and limitations of historical science, they should have studied more instead of trusting man's word over God's.

The real question is: Whom will YOU believe? Will you believe God, *who was there*, who created everything and through the millennia has supernaturally moved on the hearts of men to accurately record the events and truths we need to know about Him, life and eternity. Or will you believe the evolutionists, *men who weren't there*, who continue to make up theories and guesses to validate their sheer religious faith in naturalism (atheism) despite glaring genetic evidence against "molecules to man" evolution; evidence that clearly points to an infinitely intelligent designer and Creator. Your decision is *very* important to your future. We've only scratched the surface of the science of origins and the reliability of God's Word. For more information on these topics please visit www.AnswersInGenesis.org

"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." James 4:6. The humble man has no problem seeing the design of God's hand in the intricacies of nature and is willing to hear what God has graciously written and preserved for us to know about Him.

A proud man looks in the mirror and sees only himself, he sees himself and his world through his own standards, be they religious or secular. He does not necessarily have to "boast" to be proud; a private man can also be proud- Whether or not he wants others to see this image of himself can depend on how he sees his accomplishments: If he feels he has done little with his life, he may be depressed; if he thinks he has done well, he is happy with himself and with life. He may boast about it or maybe he won't. A successful, proud man can also be quiet and not brag about his accomplishments. Pride is more a matter of the heart than what is seen or heard on the outside.

Whether "successful" or an apparent "failure," anyone can be guilty of pride because he is looking at himself alone in that mirror and he centers his worldview around what he thinks and wants, what he believes he deserves- whether or not he currently "has" all that he believes he deserves. Amazingly, regardless of what they've done wrong against man or God, a proud man or woman feels they have lived a pretty good life and done what is right for the most part. Their misbehavior and failures are usually someone else's fault.

The biggest problem with pride is that we have forgotten that God created us and He deserves to be recognized, honored and worshipped. When we make ourselves the center, it is pure idolatry. God created us to love Him and to love each other—not ourselves. Selfishness is at the heart of pride. Selfishness is the very power of sin. It is that selfish pride that keeps God "at arms length" and causes us to hurt others and disobey God's laws.

Yes, God does command and demand obedience... but God is not selfish or demanding in a human sense. We cannot compare Him to man, He is our Creator. He has the power, authority and perfection to handle "being demanding" because He's not merely human and subject to failure. He has a right to demand our obedience because He created us out of nothing and gives us every breath.

Thankfully, God is also good and loving and has "demanded" only what is good for us. His goodness makes God all the more worthy of our worship. The problem with most modern westerners is that humanism has taught us to worship ourselves; it is the essence of pride. But we dare not accuse God of pride for requiring us to worship Him (as some do!). That very accusation is full of man's own pride. He is God- you and I are not! He has a right to be worshipped, we don't.

Now, back to His commands. Because God is love, He calls us, as His children, to be selfless even as He is- to love God with all that we are and have; and from that heart of love for God is meant to spring forth love for our neighbor. The problem is, we cannot and do not do it. We are weak.

So... Are there any charges against you? Do you consider yourself "a good person"? By what standard though? What does God's Word reveal about your thoughts and actions? Have you broken God's Law- the 10 Commandments? Here are just six of them: ● Have you ever used God's holy name in vain? That is called blasphemy. ● Have you always honored your parents in word and deed? ● Have you ever stolen something (no matter how small)? Then you are a thief. ● If you have told just one lie, even if you call it "white",

then you are a liar, and cannot enter the Kingdom of God. Matt. 5:19-48 describes how breaking **God's law is not just what you "do" but it's a matter of the heart...** • Have you ever hated anyone? Then the Bible says you are a murderer. • Have you had sex outside of marriage? Then you are a fornicator and cannot enter Heaven. Jesus said, "Whoever looks upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her in his heart." Have you ever lusted? Then you are an adulterer at heart.

God is Holy and our sin is terribly selfish, arrogant and more destructive than we know. How dare we breathe the air God has given us and enjoy all the wonderful things He has provided for us and then live our lives as though He and His laws don't matter? Yes, the world is messed up- but God created it "very good". Yes, God gave us our free will and He knew we'd mess it up, but it is we who have all chosen to sin. How dare anyone judge or blame God because of our own, and all of mankind's, destructive sin and evil deeds?

There will come a day when we will all stand before the ultimate Judge, and there will be no secret arrests, no need for trials or to wonder if justice will be served, for the Bible tells us in 1 Timothy 5:24 "Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later." and in Hebrews 4:13 "...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."

A humble man... looks in the mirror and sees what his creator made him to be, though he sees good things and bad, he knows every good thing has come from God and the humble man or woman owns responsibility for the bad choices they have made in life. Sin has affected us all. The proud laugh and scorn and do not care- but the humble know they are weak and have sinned against God; they know they are guilty before Him.

In fact, you may feel there is little hope for you because a Holy God could never forgive all the pain and suffering you have caused. Perhaps this thought torments you as it does many people, it may even allow you to continue in the very habits that have caused so much destruction in your life already. The demons often taunt, albeit in a more subtle and seductive way, "Why not medicate the pain with the momentary relief and pleasure of sin, you are doomed anyway?"

To you I would say, believe it or not, God is not far from you. My hope is that by the end of this short paper, you will understand why that is, believe it, and receive what God has for you. It is for you, for sinners that Christ came to die. He did not come for the righteous. If you know you are guilty, be of good cheer, there is a kind judge on the bench of eternity, and though justice MUST be served; the Judge Himself has a plan to save you from the sentence- and from the guilt!

Listen to your conscience. God's Law leaves us all sinners in His sight. On Judgment Day we will be found guilty and end up in Hell forever... except for one very wonderful fact: God had a plan from the beginning to bring us eternal life, not because we deserve it but as the Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He sent His own Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life John 3:16. How does that work? How can that be? God created all things- He can miraculously redeem us as He sees fit.

Why did God become a man? Only a perfect man could become the innocent sacrifice needed to pay our debt of sin. The Holy, eternal God the Son came to earth and "put on flesh" to become that man. Only God can rise from the dead and defeat the power of sin and the grave. Christ came to do that, not for Himself, He has held power over all things from eternity past, but He did it as the God-man, as our representative- the second Adam- so that in Him, you and I can be risen from our sin and death!

God the Son came to earth as a man to take the punishment for OUR sins!!! Because Jesus paid our fine on the Cross 2,000 years ago, God can forgive us. The Bible says in 2 Cor. 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Jesus "Himself bore our sins in His own body on the cross, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes (the whip beatings He took for us) you were healed." He offers this wonderful gift of grace to you.

In light of all this, I plead with you: confess your sins to God, turn away from them and put your faith and trust in the Savior, Jesus Christ- God will forgive your sins and grant you everlasting life. Then, according to Rom 10:9-10- "...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

To the Christian: "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" 2 Cor. 13:5. "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.. **Do this** and you will live" Luke 10:28. God says to Christians in Rev. 2:1-7 and 3:14-22, "Return to your first love" and do the things you did at first; don't be lukewarm! God wants us to be on fire for Him, like newlyweds for each other. But our relationship with God is often more like a spouse who has lost passion for the intimacy of marriage and yet is happy and content to drift along in his or her lukewarm state while the other spouse still longs for the affection of their first love. God also sees our hearts and knows if we want Him and love Him with all of our heart or if we are just doing our "weekly duty!"

To love God is to obey Him. The whole world can quote Matthew 7:1 "Judge not" but read the whole chapter; it says to get your life right with God, *then* help others to get theirs right; Matthew chapter 7 does not teach us to accept or ignore sin- nor to defend it! In verses 21-23, Jesus said that many will call Him Lord on judgment day and say they have done wonderful, miraculous things, even *in his name*, and He will say to them, "I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws."

In Romans 6:1 Paul asks "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" God forbids it! Is this "grace plus works?" No, it is grace plus fruit. "A good tree bears good fruit"-Matthew 7:15-20.

Are you lying to yourself and to everyone else? "God is not mocked."- Galatians 6:7. "My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."-1 John 3:18-24. Only a new heart can change the behavior, Ezekiel 36:26. Good works demonstrate that the heart is changed, that a new birth has occurred. Show your faith through your works, not to earn salvation, but to demonstrate that God's grace works in you. James 2

There are many who look like Christians who grow up right alongside those that truly have faith and good fruit, but one day judgment will come and that which is hidden will be revealed- Matthew 13:24-43. If your heart condemns you, repent and turn to God; "Confess your sins and He is faithful and just to forgive you"-1 John 1:6-10, but only if you confess them; please don't ignore Him, be lukewarm & get spewed out! "*He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*" Luke 14:33-35

The Power to Obey. Living a holy life is not just "trying hard" to obey God's laws but it is God's grace supernaturally producing holiness and good works in your life through the new birth. It is a revelation of the reality of this new heart-made one with Christ, that causes you to grow in your faith. God's Spirit will teach & strengthen you as you read the Bible daily, especially the New Testament letters to the *churches* (Romans to Revelation); they are written to believers in Christ. When you read the Bible, remember it is literally God's message to you- believe what God says and set your mind on the grace and goodness He has shown to you in Christ. That attitude of gratitude is a big part of the power to obey your heavenly Father. A good way to start your studies in the Word would be to meditate on all the verses in this paper and here are a few more important ones about the life changing power of the new birth. 2 Cor. 5:17, 2 Cor. 6:1, Gal 6:15 & Rom.8:4.

As part of our obedience, you should be baptized (immersed in water) to declare your faith and to testify that you have died with Christ to your old life (as you go under the water as in burial) and are risen with Him (as you rise up from the water) to a new resurrected life *in Christ, that new life is* indeed our hope of glory and the power to obey.

God wants you to look in the mirror and see Jesus Christ in you and to remember that through faith HE has made you free from the penalty of disobedience to the law, and through a new life in Him, you are also free from the power and bondage of sin. Look into the perfect law of liberty and see who He has made you to be *in Him*. James 1:25

To Everyone: You are accountable to your Creator and your conscience confirms that your thoughts and actions in life have condemned you before the ultimate Judge. Ignoring that truth by denying sin, God's existence, or any other mental trick, does not change the facts. Whether you are a professed atheist or a professed Christian, please do not risk your eternity but give yourself fully to Him who gave Himself fully for you. The ultimate humility is to lose your own life, your own ambitions and dreams and trade them for His. It's the best plea bargain going in the universe.

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