

## GOD FOUND A WAY

Because of His great love for us, God became a man in Jesus Christ, allowed Himself to be cruelly murdered by the very people He loved, came back to life three days later, and returned to His Father in heaven.

## DILEMMA SOLVED

Through the death of Jesus, God solved His dilemma and provided a way for rebellious men to be forgiven of their sin and restored to a vital, loving relationship with Him. This intimate relationship with God is what the Bible calls “eternal life.”

## YOUR RESPONSE?

Because God respects your free will and will not force Himself on you, receiving God’s gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life depends on your meeting certain conditions. God has done all He can to make a way for you to come back to Him. Now you need to respond to God. To establish a relationship with God, you must:

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1. Acknowledge that you have rebelled against God. (“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Rom. 3:23)

2. Turn away from your lifestyle of selfishness. (“Repent for the forgiveness of your sins.” Acts 2:38)

3. Commit yourself to living the way God commands you to live—loving God, and loving others as yourself. (“Love the Lord your God, and love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:30, 31)

4. Ask God’s forgiveness for your sins. (“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.” I John 1:9)

5. Take your hands off your own life and allow Jesus to be your master. (“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Rom. 10:9, 10)

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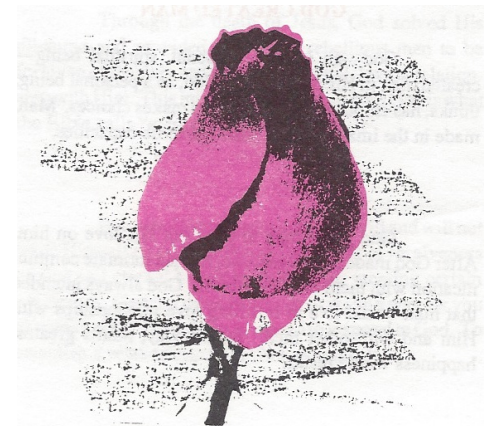
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# The Eternal Love Story



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## THE ETERNAL LOVE STORY

The most wonderful love story ever told is not only **TRUE**, it is a story about **YOU!**

It is the eternal story of God's love for all people and it goes like this:

### GOD CREATED MAN

God—an infinite, personal, spiritual being—created man in His own image. God, as a personal being, thinks, has emotional reactions, and makes choices. Man, made in the image of God, also has these capacities.

### GOD LOVED MAN

God made man to pour out His love on him. After God made Adam and Eve, He had intimate communication with them on a daily basis. God always intended that man would live in fulfilling love relationships with Him and with other people. In this way, man's greatest happiness would result.

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## MAN CAN CHOOSE

Because man has a free will, he must choose whether he will love God and other people, or choose to gratify his own selfish desires. The well-being of God and man depends on the choices men make to love God and love others, so God commanded men to live this way. This is the law of God—love God and love others.

### LIFE OR DEATH?

God told man that there were consequences for obedience or disobedience to the law of love. If man obeyed, and loved God and other people, he would have life. If man rebelled, he would die. Death is separation. Spiritual death is separation from God. Physical death is the separation of your body and spirit. Man's life or death depended on what he would choose to do.

### MAN REBELLED

Man abused his relationships by refusing to love God and his fellow man. Man broke the law of love and reaped the terrible consequences. The result of this rebellion was

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great grief in God's heart, separation from God, broken relationships with other people, and the destruction of the earth itself.

### MAN IS GUILTY

Nothing forced man to rebel. Man was completely free to choose how he would live. This is why man is guilty and deserves to be punished for the devastation he has brought to his relationships with God and other people.

### GOD STILL LOVES MAN

But God does not want to be separated from man. Although man is rebellious and selfish and deserves to be punished, God still loves him and longs to re-establish relationship with him.

### GOD'S DILEMMA

God has a dilemma, though, in that He had to find a way to forgive man and restore relationship with Him and at the same time not break His own law. The only way to accomplish this was through a sacrifice of some kind.

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