

YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON!

You're basically a good person.

*You don't hurt other people.

*You work hard.

*You pay your taxes.

*You're good to your family

*You don't kick little animals.

*Why you even give money and clothes to charitable organizations.

Why bother you with this religion stuff? Why should you need God? After all, you're a good person!

Now this may surprise you, but ...

GOD DID NOT CREATE YOU TO BE GOOD

Being good is admirable, and God would rather have you be good than evil, but God did not create you to be good.

Rather:

GOD CREATED YOU TO KNOW HIM!

Another important point: God is not so interested in what we do as He is in why we do it. In other words, God is concerned about our motivations—the intentions of our hearts.

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In the Bible, God describes three different kinds of works we can do. He says we can be involved in:

1. Good works—good deeds done by a person who has good motivations. He does his deeds because he truly loves God and other people.

2. Evil works—evil deeds done by a person who has evil motivations. He lives for his own selfish gratification, not caring about loving God or other people.

3. Dead works—good deeds done with selfish motivations: for example, giving to the poor so everyone will see how good you are, or going to church so other people will think you are a good, upright citizen.

Most people who think they are good are actually involved in dead works—their deeds are good, but they are not doing them out of sincere love for God and others. Thus, their dead works may benefit others, but they will receive no reward because their motivations are selfish.

Besides, as we said before, God did not create us just to be good. He created us to know Him. We were intended to live in a fulfilling, open love relationship with God, and good deeds should be the natural result of our love for Him.

So then, the question is not

Are you happy?

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Do you know God?

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Do you know God?

We have all resisted the loving rulership of God and gone our own selfish, rebellious ways. This rebellion caused a breakdown in the communication between God and man, but God, in His love, provided a way to re-establish this broken relationship. Through the death of Jesus Christ, you can come to know God intimately, if you meet certain conditions. These conditions include:

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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