



Witness



HOW TO ANSWER THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THE WORLD

FOR CENTURIES PEOPLE HAVE PUZZLED OVER LIFE AFTER DEATH

If you died right now and God asked *"Why should I let you into my Heaven?"* what would you say?

Here's a quick 8 question test to find out if you are good enough. Have you ever...

1. Told a lie?
2. Given money to charity?
3. Tried to go to church regularly?
4. Stolen anything?
5. Used "God" or "Jesus" as a curse word?
6. Tried to read your Bible regularly?
7. Looked at someone with lustful thoughts?
8. Broken the first commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me"?

THE BAD NEWS

We all fail the test.

In just five of the ten commandments God tells His people: "You shall not lie... steal... use God's name in vain... commit adultery (which Jesus equates to lust)... and have no other gods before me."

Giving money to charity, going to church, and reading the Bible are all good activities, but none of them impress God. Isaiah 64:6 says "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."

Think of it this way--if a person commits a serious crime, such as murder, does giving money to charity make up for it? No. This "good deed" will mean nothing to the judge when he passes his sentence.

THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus passed the test.

Imagine being in a court room, guilty of many serious crimes. The judge fines you \$5 million dollars or life in prison. You don't have near that amount of money, so they begin to take you out of the courtroom when a stranger appears. This stranger walks up to the judge and gives him a \$5 million dollar check, freeing you! Now you're free, because of the gift that has been given.

This is what Jesus did for us on the cross! John 3:16 says: "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."

CHRIST OUR SACRIFICE

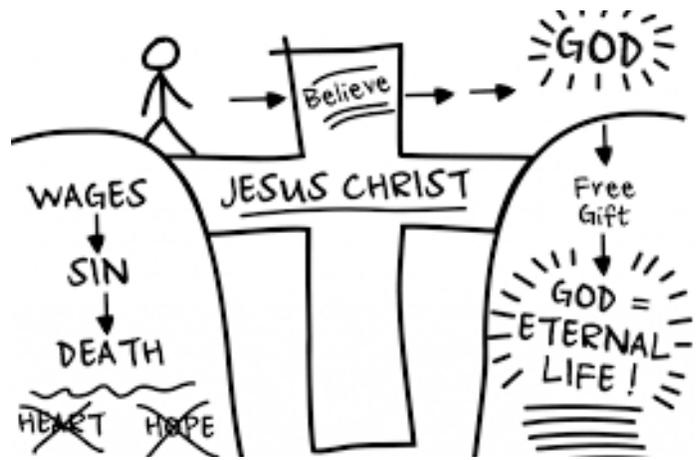
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

1 Peter 3:18

God sent Jesus to die on the cross in our place. So that we wouldn't have to go to hell, God sent His only son, Jesus, to die on the cross and suffer the punishment that justice demands. Then He rose from the grave, forever defeating death! He not only paid the fine, but represents us in the courtroom, takes our punishment, and gives us His righteousness.

THE BRIDGE TO LIFE

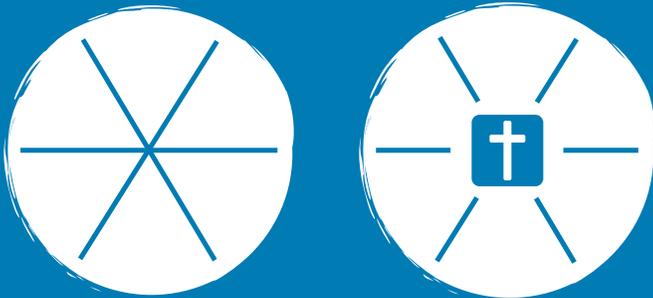
ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER DRAW OUT THE BRIDGE ILLUSTRATION



THE PIE ILLUSTRATION

The illustration to the left demonstrates what it means to make Jesus the Lord of our lives.

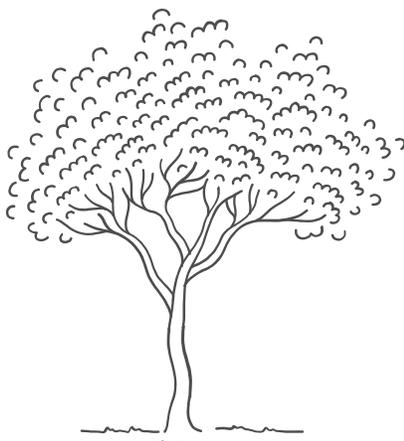
Consider: What is most important in people's lives? These occupy the sections of the pie. When we follow Jesus as Lord, He leads and empowers each of these areas.



RECEIVING CHRIST

You can turn from your sins and trust Christ by faith through prayer right now. God knows your heart so the words of the prayer are not magical, but if they reflect the decision you would like to make you can use it to express your faith to God. Read over the prayer to the right and see if it reflects the desire of your heart.

LORD, I CONFESS I AM A SINNER AND SEPARATE FROM YOU. THANK YOU FOR SENDING JESUS TO DIE ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS. I WANT TO TURN FROM MY SINS AND TRUST YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND GRANT ME EVERLASTING LIFE.



NEW LIFE

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

If you have truly repented and trusted Jesus there will be some changes in your life. You will experience a new desire to honor God, a deeper love for others, and other changes. If you truly surrendered your life to Christ you can be sure that He came in and will give you eternal life! Take steps to grow in your relationship with God by beginning to read through the book of John in the Bible.