

Why Jesus?

(He can only be Lord of your life by first being your Savior)

1. Understand that **God is perfect**
2. Recognize that **we are imperfect**
 - a. Sin = imperfection
 - i. It's an archery term meaning missing the mark – missing the bullseye – not being perfect
 - ii. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory (perfection) of God." Romans 3:23
3. Perfection by its very nature **cannot be with imperfection and remain perfect.**
 - a. God's very nature does not allow us to be with Him
 - i. We need help! We can't ever be perfect – we can't ever be good enough. It requires a solution we can't provide!
 1. **Only perfection can provide a perfect solution – therefore, the solution comes from God. Not from man.**
4. Realize that **Jesus is that solution**
 - a. Jesus came as fully God and fully man (born by the Holy Spirit and woman) **to save us**
 - b. How? **He lived the perfect life we couldn't live.** He was tempted just like you and I but He never sinned.
 - c. He knowingly lived His life, walking perfectly, with the knowledge that He was here to save us by sacrificing Himself on the cross.
 - i. **"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:21**
 - d. But why did He have to die?
 - i. This dates back to the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed and ate the fruit. In response God killed an animal to clothe them and restore them – God established that the penalty of sin was death.
 1. Before Jesus in the Old Testament, there was offerings of animals to cleanse believers of their sins such as their best bulls, rams, goats, birds, lambs, etc.
 2. **"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement (or making things right through sacrifice) for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." – Leviticus 17:11**
 - e. **So there had to be a sacrifice to save us – but the sacrifices that were in the Old Testament were imperfect. Therefore, God sent His Son to become the perfect sacrifice – so that once and for all our sins would be forgiven (past, present, and future).**
 - i. **"But He (Jesus), having offered one sacrifice (Himself) for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God..."** Hebrews 12:10
 - ii. **"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 6:23**
 - f. **SO, JESUS SACRIFICED HIMSELF ON OUR BEHALF (BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US) TAKING OUR SIN ON HIM AND GIVING US HIS PERFECTION IN GOD'S EYES THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION.**
 - i. The greatest and most unfair swap in all of history! And He did it willingly!!!
5. Understand that **receiving this salvation through Jesus (being saved and knowing Him as Savior) is by grace alone through faith – nothing of yourselves.** It is only through the grace of God that He saves us! **IT IS BY PURE BELIEF!**
 - i. Grace = Giving a good gift you don't deserve
 1. He gave you Heaven and a life here on earth with Him!
 - ii. Mercy = taking away a punishment you deserve
 1. He took away Hell and a life here on earth without God!
 - b. **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever BELIEVES in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16**
 - c. Therefore and **simply put Truly Believing That Jesus Sacrifice on the Cross was Enough for You and I is the way.**
6. In Action:
 - a. Becoming saved is understanding that you can't make yourself right with God and you need to receive the love and sacrifice offered through Jesus to make you right with Him. Through this He sees you perfectly as He sees Jesus.
 - b. **Repent and ask for forgiveness!** This means to turn your heart from the world and the sin that is in your life and turn it to Jesus. This is an initial choice that you first do when you realize that you need Him. After that, it is a daily choice to follow Him as **LORD.**
 - i. **It's a heart issue:**

1. When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment He said **“Love the Lord God with all your heart, all your mind, and all your soul”..... – and the second is “Love your neighbor (people) as yourself” Matthew 22:37-39**
- ii. **Jesus just wants your heart. It’s as simple as truly choosing to believe and ask Him to be the Lord of your life. He becomes Savior through the belief and want to follow Him.**
 1. **DO NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF CULTURAL CHRISTIANITY: WANTING TO PRAY A PRAYER AND BE “SAVED” – YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE AND FOLLOW. HE HAS TO HAVE YOUR HEART!**
 - a. **The response is simple: GIVE GOD YOUR HEART! HE WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO FOLLOW AFTER THIS – BUT IF YOU HAVE NEVER TRULY GIVEN HIM YOUR HEART AND YOUR LIFE THEN HE CANNOT BE LORD OF YOUR LIFE!**
 - c. **GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US. THAT COMES THROUGH JESUS.**
 - d. **Once you do receive Him in your heart as Savior – the HOLY SPIRIT COMES AND LIVES WITHIN YOU and CHANGES YOU. You are now a new creation!**
7. **Follow Him as LORD**
 - a. **GOD IS THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN CHANGE YOU TO WANT TO FOLLOW HIM AND CHOOSE HIM OVER THE SIN OF YOUR LIFE. IT IS A DAILY STRUGGLE THAT HE WILL OVERCOME FOR US. ALL WE NEED TO DO IS SUBMIT OUR HEARTS TO HIM BY CHOOSING HIM OVER THE WORLD and OUR FLESH**
 - b. **You will fail – you won’t ever get it all right, even for a day. It’s okay, that’s WHY WE HAVE JESUS! – We’ll learn how to follow Him as LORD as we go through this group together**
 - c. **CAUTION: CHOOSING TO LIVE IN SIN ONCE YOU ARE SAVED IS A DANGEROUS PATH THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION.**
 - i. Sin has consequences:
 1. **“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” – Galatians 6:7**
 2. **“The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction.” – Galatians 6:8**
 3. **“Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**
 4. **“Darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” Ephesians 4:18-19**
 - a. **Essentially, a consequence of sin is more sin in your life. Break the cycle!**
 - d. But everybody sins, so how do I do it?
 - i. **Repent.** Again, **this simply means turning your heart back to God** and dedicating that you are laying that sin and all sin down. Pretty much that you are resolving to not commit anymore sin – even though you know you will. It’s about the heart. You actively decide to choose Jesus over your flesh and over the world.
 1. When you choose to live in sin, no matter how big or small that sin is, it will harden your heart and God’s Spirit that lives within you is numbed. See he is the only one that can change you and when you give power to the world by living in that sin vs choosing to do your best to live as pure as you can in all things – the Spirit cannot change you near as much.
 - ii. The sinful nature vs the soul nature
 1. The sinful nature, your flesh, will always battle what is best for your soul. **What is best for your soul (AKA Living Your Best Life) is to choose Jesus continually by having a repentant heart, or simply put, a heart that continually chooses Jesus – ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU MESS UP AND DON’T GET IT RIGHT.**
 - a. **“The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is contrary to the sinful nature.” – Galatians 5:17**
 2. God will discipline those who are His.
 - a. Revelation 3:19 **“Those who I love I discipline, therefore eagerly repent.”**
 - iii. Lastly: **Seek God’s Kingdom and not your own**
 1. **“Seek first the Kingdom (a relationship with Jesus and loving people in Jesus name) and all these things will be added to you.”**
 - a. This essentially means that **all you have to focus on is loving God and loving people.** Having your heart set on Jesus first and people second. **If you do this, God will put in your life what is meant for you and take out what is not meant for you.**
 - b. **He created you so choosing for Him to drive your life vs you is the best way for you live as you were intended to! Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Self Control, Faithfulness, as well as fulfillment will be what comprises your life instead of being empty and wandering around lost.**