

1. There is a God and He created everything there is. This God consists of three persons in one: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (The Word spoken of here is Jesus Christ.)

Colossians 1:15-18; Acts 17:23-31

2. Everything was created to glorify him – that is to reflect his character, beauty and perfection and to give him praise. In fact man was made in the image of God. And was designed to give God the most praise because he is the most like God.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

Psalm 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

3. God’s expectation was that man would love his creator and be thankful for everything that has been provided for him. Man cannot survive without the provision and aid of his creator.

Acts 17:23-31 ... “He gives to all life, breath and all things.”

Psalm 107:8 Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

4. Man, when given a test of his loyalty and obedience, failed and chose to be independent.

Genesis 3 (See the whole chapter) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. To the woman he said, “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam he said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you saying, ‘you shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return”

5. As a result, man was condemned to death and the earth and its creatures were cursed.

See the previous passage.

Romans 8:20ff For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

6. Every person since that first man has also refused to submit to his creator and doesn't even live up to his own conscience.

Romans 3:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Read all of Romans 1, 2 and 3

7. Man has a sin nature from which all of the bad stuff comes.

Matthew 15:18ff (Jesus said) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immorality, thefts, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person.

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

(Points number 4 – 7 explain why evil is in the world and why even “nature” is not particularly kind to us.)

8. Unless rescued, every man stands condemned by God and God's wrath is on him.

John 3:36 he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

John 3:18 he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

9. We have one life to live and then after that comes the judgment. There are no second chances.

Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

Psalms 10:13 why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, “You will not call to account”?

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Revelation 20:12, 15 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

10. However, God loves the people he has created. But, because he is a just judge, cannot simply overlook the crimes committed against his reign. These crimes consist primarily of

resisting his rule, not loving, being ungrateful for provisions and not loving and caring for other human beings.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Numbers 14:18 The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgressions; but he by no means clears the guilty.

11. God's solution to this implied dilemma (how to be just and loving) was to enter the world in the person of Jesus Christ.

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Timothy 1:15 Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

John 14:9 Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

12. He lived a perfect life, the kind God had originally intended for each of us to live.

Hebrews 4:15 He was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Isaiah 53:9 he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth

13. In spite of his perfect life he died, punished for the sins of others so that they might be set free from the condemnation they had been under.

1 Peter 2:24 he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 5:6ff For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.. Since therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Isaiah 53:5 He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities

13. He defeated death by rising bodily from the grave 3 days after he died.

1 Corinthians 15:3 Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of who are still alive.

14. He ascended into heaven where he is the first man to enter heaven as a resurrected person.

Acts 1:11 And the angel said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

14. God offers a free and full pardon from all sins and crimes against him based on the sacrifice of Jesus. This is offered as a gift; it can't be worked for or earned.

15. The pardon is received by acknowledging one's rebellion against God, repenting of that rebellion and trusting Christ's substitution for him. In essence it is accepting from God the gift of forgiveness and eternal life which cannot otherwise be earned or merited.

16. In receiving this pardon, one is acknowledging that rebellion and disobedience to God was wrong. He turns from this stance to one of submission to God's rule over his life.

Acts 16:31 Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved

John 1:12 But as many as received him to them he gave the authority to become the children of God, to those who believe on his name.

Acts 13:37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

Mark 1:15 Repent and believe in the gospel. (gospel means good news)

Acts 10:43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 2:8, 9 For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

17. In addition to a pardon from sin, the perfect righteousness of Christ is applied to us. He took our sin, we got his righteousness. This process is called justification. It is given as a gift.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 3:24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:9 that I might be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from (keeping) the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

18. Those who don't receive God's offer of forgiveness are left in their disobedient ways and are under the wrath of God until God ultimately casts him into hell for his rebellion.

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God.