

## The Gospel Response to: "I'm a Good Person"

7 minutes

When we ask people the question, "Why do you believe you are going to heaven?", the most common answer we get is some form of this response: "I'm a good person"

How should we respond?

1. You may be a good person compared to the standards of our current society, but I'm guessing you're probably unaware of God's super high standards for being good, it's called the ten commandments.
2. Those standards are SO high, you tell one lie one time at any time in your life and according to His standards it's the same as having broken all the commandments. So in God's eyes, you steal one thing, one time at any time in your life He considers you to be an idolatrous, lying, thieving, adulterous, blaspheming murderer.
3. In fact He sees your self righteousness as nothing but filthy rags (like menstrual rags).
4. The Bible says that it is appointed for all men to die and then face judgment. So when you stand before a holy omniscient God on judgment day, who knows everything thing you have ever said, done or even felt, based on His standards for righteousness, would He find you innocent or guilty of keeping His commandments?
5. Where would you spend eternity? Heaven or separated from His presence in Hell?
6. Ok, let me tell you the story of what He did to fix this problem.
7. Back before the foundation of the earth, because they enjoyed each other's company so much, God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit decided to make man in their image to share in the wonderful relationship they enjoyed so much.
8. They would give man a free will and because they were omniscient they knew man would sin (which is a big problem for a holy God) and so to fix this problem they entered into a covenant where God the Father agreed to give mankind to His Son as His bride to enjoy life with for the rest of eternity and God the Son agreed to take her place by living the perfect life she was supposed to live and by paying the price for her sin in order to satisfy the perfect justice of the Father.
9. So they created earth and a beautiful garden called Eden for their sinless perfect man named Adam to live in. They even gave him a wife, can you tell God loves this marriage concept. They gave him several tasks to accomplish. They entered into a probationary covenant with him whereby he would be given an eternal gloried body and live with God in wonderful bliss for eternity should he pass the terms of probation. There was only term for Him to obey. Do not eat from the tree of knowledge. Adam broke covenant with God and rebelled against Him by disobeying the one thing. This action wrecked the father/son relationship and the marriage relationship and it infected all of mankind from then till now with sin.
10. So God works with man for about 4000 years and in the fullness of time Jesus comes to the earth to fulfill the terms of His covenant with the Father. He was born of a virgin so he was 100% man, but conceived in the womb of woman by the Holy Spirit, not infected by the seed of sinful man, so he was 100% God. He lived the perfect life on behalf of his bride and then after 33 years it came time for Him to pay the price for her sin.
11. So let's look at the price He paid and how He paid it...His suffering...His passion.
12. Let's start with the Last Supper He had with his 12 disciples. He says to them, "I have earnestly [fervently] desired to eat this meal with you, before I suffer" He knew exactly what that was going to mean for Him. He knew that when He sat down to eat the meal with them, He was less than 24 hours away from the most fearful event that has ever occurred in the history of the universe. And yet He says, I have eagerly, I have earnestly desired to eat this meal with you. We don't have a clue as to how glorious that is.
13. Notice His love for His disciples (and us) even they He knew they would all abandon Him and He would be left alone. It's like He's saying: I know you, I know your hearts, I know what you are going to do, but I still fervently desire to eat this meal with you. He was looking beyond the horrors to the relationship that the horrors would pay for.

14. So let's look at the "horrors he was about to suffer.
  - a) It starts in the garden of Gethsemane after the last supper where he agonized in prayer even to the sweating of blood. What horror was He about to face that caused Him to sweat great drops of blood?
  - b) Was it Horror # 1? Being beaten, whipped and tortured beyond recognition as a human? No.
  - c) Was it Horror # 2? Enduring the most cruel instrument of torture and suffering known to man...the crucifixion, a term for a process where we get the word excruciating. No.
  - d) Was it Horror # 3? Slow death by asphyxiation on the cross? No.
  - e) Was it Horror # 4? The sorrows and torments of death He suffered in Hades? No.
  - f) The worst horror, the horror that He knew was coming, the one that caused Him to sweat great drops of blood was being separated from His Father for the first time in all of eternity. He was about to be made to be sin, for all the sins of all of His people. The fist of God's wrath and fury was soon to be struck against Him in justice against sin...for your sin and for mine.
15. Remember in the last supper He said to his disciples (and to you and me also) take this bread, representing my body, which is given for you, eat it in remembrance of me?
16. And then He said, take this cup, which is poured out for you, which is the New Covenant in My blood." He was telling us never to forget the price He was about to pay not just for our benefit, but in our place.
17. So after He accomplished His 3 day mission in the Hades, God's Spirit raised him up as a validation that His sacrifice was accepted on our behalf. He is the only human ever raised from the dead and remained alive. He is right now seated at the right hand of the Father praying and interceding for us and looking forward to the day when He will be united with His bride with whom He will rule and reign forever. Oh by the way, we are the bride!
18. So my final warning to you is: Know that there is only one way into fellowship with God, and to come in your own righteousness is the supreme offense that God will not tolerate.
19. To come to Him in your righteousness and say, "Lord I don't need your Son, I am acceptable on my own merits," is to say, into the Father's ears, "Your Son's sufferings weren't necessary for me." And the Father will not hear that.
20. And to say, "Lord, you must accept me though I have not embraced Your Son," is to say, "Lord, that cry of Your son was a waste."
21. The Lord won't allow in His presence any who are ambivalent about His Son's damnation.
22. The Father has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. The one not honoring the Son does not honor the Father who has sent Him.
23. So anyone who comes to Him and says, "you're my Father, but I don't need your Son as my Savior," has no idea of the wrath that they are inviting upon themselves.
24. Self righteousness is not a good plan at the judgment day.
25. I've told you the story of Jesus Christ and what He did for us, it's called the gospel, which means good news.
26. I have introduced you to your Savior.
27. Have you heard His voice thru the good news I just gave you? Will you open the door of your heart and acknowledge Him as your Savior...will you invite Him to come in and be the Lord of your life?
28. The question now is: what will you do with this Christ, this Savior? Will you embrace Him or reject Him?

Acts 17:30-31. God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.