

Does God Care About Me?

1 Corinthians 15:3-9; 1 Peter 5:7

Grace Bible Church

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Introduction: The most important question you will answer in your life: what do I believe about _____.
It affects how you deal with your past. It affects how you face the future. It affects how you live today. A close second: Does God _____ about me?

- Why are there so many different ideas about God?
 - By our _____
 - By the media
 - By _____
 - By other people
 - By **our** _____

- Some see God as
 - An _____
 - A judgmental parent
 - A _____ - a tyrant never allow others to choose against him.

- If we adopt inaccurate views of God two things will follow:
 - We will _____ his existence or call ourselves agnostic. A great question: what kind of God do you not believe in?
 - We will create one we are _____. Moralistic therapeutic deism (MTD) is a term that was first introduced in the 2005 book Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton. The term is used to describe what they consider to be the common beliefs among American youth. The book is the result of the research project the National Study of Youth and Religion interviews with 3000 Teenagers
 - A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
 - God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
 - The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
 - God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
 - Good people go to heaven when they die.

Is there a way to know who the true God and if he cares? Because the bottom line is: what we think about God is not what counts, it is how He has revealed Himself!

Key thought: the Bible reveals a God who **cares** _____. How do we know?

- I. He cared enough to _____ Himself to us. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:9, ESV)
There is simply no way we could understand who God is unless he had chosen to reveal Himself to us.
 - A. By creating us. What can we learn about God from creation
 1. _____
 2. Powerful
 3. _____
 4. Loves Beauty
 5. _____

 - B. By becoming one of us. "A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel." (Luke 2:32, The Message) "We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created." (Colossians 1:15, The Message)

“Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God, and is stamped with God’s nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words! After he finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God,” (Hebrews 1:2–3, The Message) ““You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’” (John 14:9, The Message)

1. The question for you: Is Jesus God or a fraud? (Rick Warren) Do you believe him? “his unique identity as Son of God was shown by the Spirit when Jesus was raised from the dead, setting him apart as the Messiah, our Master.” (Romans 1:4, The Message) C. S. Lewis- Jesus was either a liar, a lunatic, or LORD
2. What do we know about God now that Christ has come? Luke 15 three stories: Lost Sheep / Lost Coin / Lost son. God is the true _____. “You have never looked another human being in the eye that Christ did not die for” Lee Strobel. The point is this: You _____.

II. He cared enough to _____. As the three stories mentioned demonstrate God is the one who makes the first move. He is the seeker, he is the searcher.

- A. He rescues us from the guilt of our past. God is just as well as loving, He has delivered us from the penalty of sin.
 1. The Bible is clear- all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Romans 3:23)
 2. The Bible is clear- the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)
 3. The Bible is clear- Christ became sin for us so we could receive his righteousness (2 Cor 5:20)
- B. He rescues us from a meaningless life. There is nothing ultimately meaningful in things that can decay or be stolen from us. We are made in the image of God, God has a meaningful existence.
- C. Fear of death
 1. For the believer death is a transfer, a change of address. I am the resurrection and the life.
 2. House of sand or rock?

III. He cares enough to _____ to you? The Bible says that you were made to have a relationship with God. You’re on this earth not to make money, retire and die. You were put on this earth because God made you to love you. You were created as an object of God’s love. God put you here to have a relationship with Him. That’s the most amazing, mind-blowing concept that God would want to have a relationship with me. It’s almost inconceivable. You were made to have a relationship with God.

- A. It was the reason Christ died. “that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:19, ESV)
- B. It is the reason God adopts us into his family. “Now that we have actually received this amazing friendship with God, we are no longer content to simply say it in plodding prose. We sing and shout our praises to God through Jesus, the Messiah!” (Romans 5:11, The Message) “For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”” (Romans 8:15, ESV)

Conclusion: When was the last time you thought about Barabbas?

Barabbas was a revolutionary and a murderer. He has no right to be remembered at all, let alone held up as an example of divine grace. But that is the whole point. Neither do I, and Christ died for me anyway. And through his substitution, I become a *Bar-abbas* myself: a son of the Father