

.....

# ACCEPTING GOD'S **GIFT OF GRACE**

.....



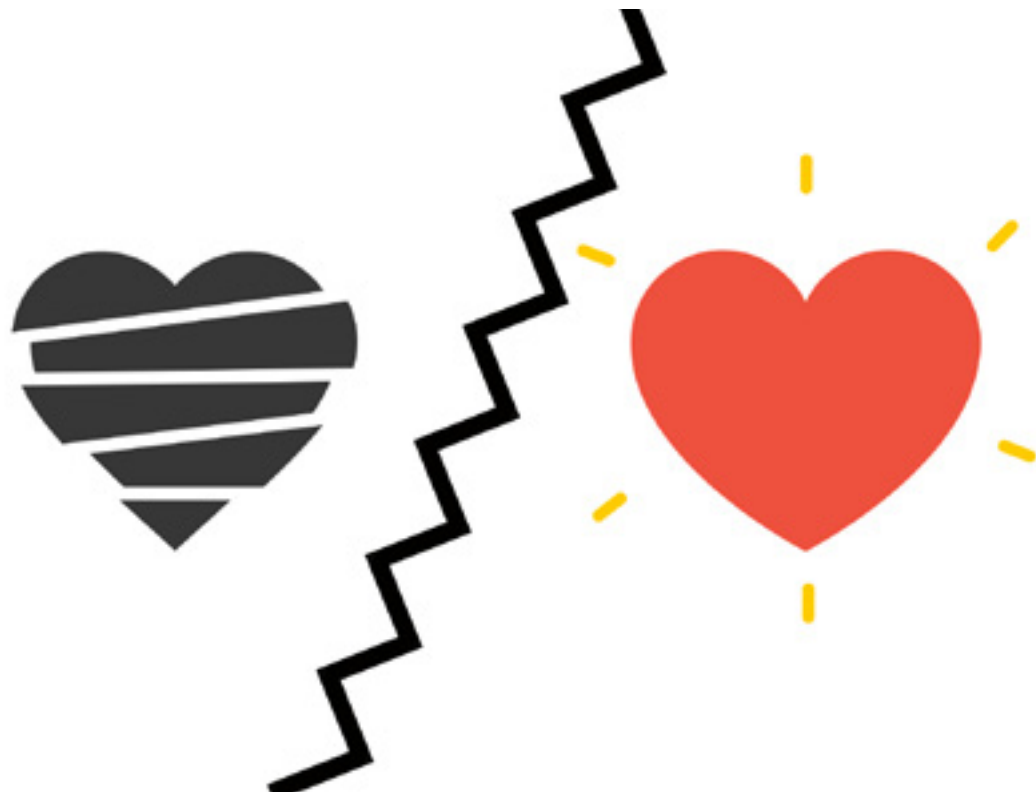
# **BEFORE THE NEED FOR GRACE EXISTED...**

.....

Everything was good!  
We found our significance, security  
and pleasure in God.  
**Our hearts were clean.**

.....

God saw all that He had made, and it was good.  
GENESIS 1:31



# WHY DID GOD NEED TO OFFER US GRACE?

.....

Sinful disobedience created a broken relationship with God, ourselves, others and creation.

**Our hearts became hardened and darkened.**

.....

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.

ROMANS 5:12

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

EPHESIANS 4:18



I'M IN CHARGE  
OF MY LIFE!



GOD IS IN CHARGE  
OF MY LIFE!

# WHY ARE WE SEPARATED FROM GOD?



Because sinful disobedience created broken relationships, we are born opposing God, and a division exists between us and God. We are God's enemies, and our desire is to find significance, security and pleasure in creation rather than the Creator.



They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.

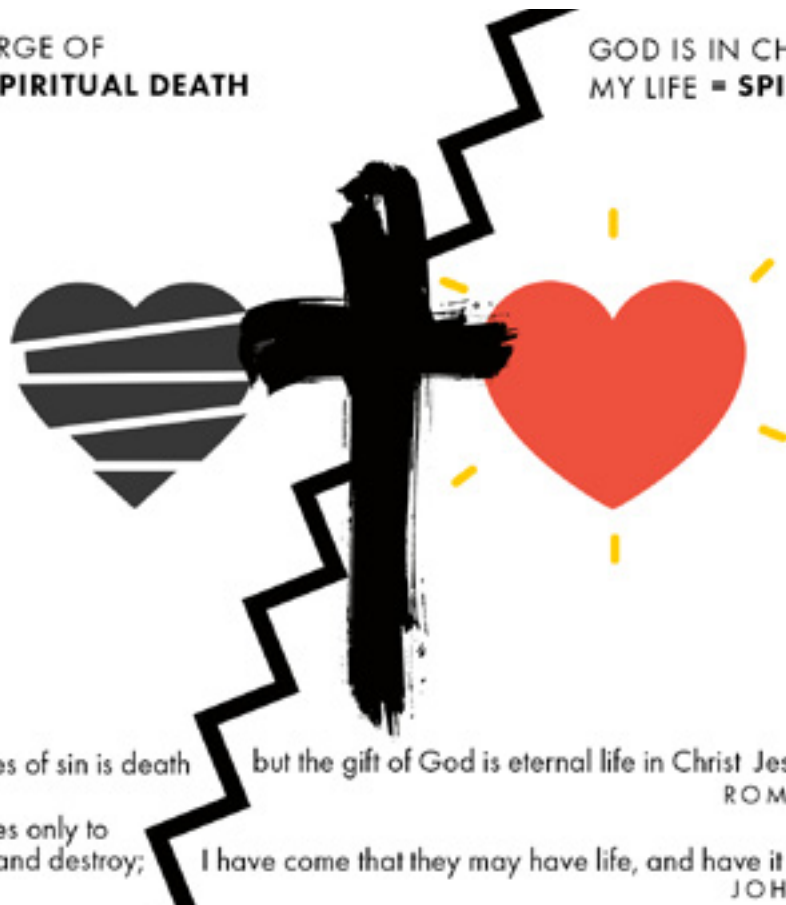
ROMANS 1:25

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

COLOSSIANS 1:21

I'M IN CHARGE OF  
MY LIFE = **SPIRITUAL DEATH**

GOD IS IN CHARGE OF  
MY LIFE = **SPIRITUAL LIFE**



For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
ROMANS 6:23

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.  
JOHN 10:10

# WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE?

.....

God is on a mission to restore His relationship with you. He sent His son to die in your place as an offering for sin. Now, you have the decision to accept or reject what Jesus did on your behalf. The choice is life or death!

.....

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 PETER 3:9

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8



# HOW DO WE ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE?

.....

**STEP 1** Confess you are a sinner and in need of a Savior.

**STEP 2** Believe Jesus is the Savior you need. He died on a cross as a sacrifice for your sin, and God raised Him from the dead, conquering sin and death for His glory and your salvation.

.....

If you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one **believes** and is justified,  
and with the mouth one **confesses** and is saved.

ROMANS 10:9-10 (ESV)

# **CONGRATULATIONS!** **YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER** **OF GOD'S FAMILY.**

God and the angels are celebrating at this very moment over your decision to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior!

.....

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.  
LUKE 15:7

You have crossed over from death to life, and your heart is now clean in the eyes of God. Your relationship with God is restored, and you are a new creation in Christ.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here!  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

.....

## **YOU ARE MADE NEW**

God just put His Holy Spirit inside you so YOU can live with power over sin, be guided by truth, serve others and know your relationship with God is restored.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possessions-to the praise of his glory.  
EPHESIANS 1: 13-14

.....

***Understanding who you are in Christ is absolutely foundational to the rest of your life as a follower of Jesus.*** Your identity has changed, and you are not the same person.

# ..... **NOW WHAT?** .....

It's time to grow in your faith. You are now a disciple, someone who increasingly loves and obeys Jesus. Disciples grow in their faith by getting into discipleship relationships that help them Learn, Include and Bless.

The practices of Learn, Include and Bless are both the fruit of a life that loves Jesus and the pathways that increase our love for Him.

Discipleship relationships include going through Growth Track, participating in a LifeGroup and serving others.

## **LEARN**

spending time with God to be more like Jesus

## **INCLUDE**

inviting others into my life so they can see Jesus at work in me

## **BLESS**

demonstrating God's love with no strings attached



# **BAPTISM**

Another critical next step to growing in your faith is to get baptized.

Jesus commanded all of His followers to take this step.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Baptism is a public declaration of the inward change that has taken place in you. As you are baptized, you will declare the Gospel message by participating in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

ROMANS 6:3-4



**YOURCENTRALCHURCH.COM**