

## GOD QUESTIONS – HOW DO I RELATE TO GOD? (John 3:1-8)

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September 29, 2019

Believing that God exists is one thing. Believing that you, as an individual, can have access to Him is quite another. In this message, we see how anyone, no matter their background, can have a relationship with God – through His Son, Jesus Christ.

### The Question: “How do I relate to God?” ...

*Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.” – John 3:1-2*

**You *can* have a relationship with God by being \_\_\_\_\_ ...**

Leviticus 27:30, Matthew 23:23, Luke 18:11-12, Matthew 5:20, Leviticus 11:45

**You *can* have a relationship with God on your \_\_\_\_\_ ...**

John 3:2, John 3:3

*Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” – John 3:3*

### Being “born again” means ...

1. **Admitting what’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

John 3:5, John 2:6,

• **Not \_\_\_\_\_ sin.**

• **But \_\_\_\_\_ sin.**

Ezekiel 36:25, 27; Acts 2:38-39, 1 Peter 3:21

*Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” – Acts 2:38*

2. **Believing what’s \_\_\_\_\_.**

John 3:13-21, John 14:6

*Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. – John 3:18*

### Questions for individual or group reflection:

Do you think people inherently desire a relationship with God? If not, do they “need” one?

Why does trying to have a relationship with God based on your good works always fail?

Why does setting your own terms on what it means to have a relationship with God equate with idolatry?

How does Jesus say that we are to enter a relationship with God?

How do Holy Baptism and Faith work together in our relationship with God?

How does the presence of the Holy Spirit relate to our relationship with God?

Why is “repentance” not just covering up, or minimizing sin?

How does baptism cleanse sin?

Does Jesus believe that He is the only way to the Father?

Are you in a relationship with God through faith and baptism?

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, we are grateful for your love and for the invitation of your Holy Spirit to trust you. We are grateful that you don’t leave it to us to reach you on our own, but that because of Your Son Jesus and His gift of life to us, we are children of the Most High God! Help us to admit our sin; to turn to you, and to receive cleansing and the gift of your Holy Spirit – in our baptism and through faith in Your Son Jesus. In His Name, Amen.

### Do:

- Examine the “foundation” of relationship with God.
- Repent of - don’t minimize - your sin.
- If you have not been baptized, be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Walk with God in newness of life today!

**Memory Verse:** “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” – John 3:17

*This message uses materials from Rev. Bill Tucker & The Preaching Project*



**HOW DO I KNOW  
IF I'M GOING TO  
HEAVEN?**



# GOD QUESTIONS



DOES GOD  
EXIST?



GOD QUESTIONS

IS GOD  
GOOD?



GOD QUESTIONS

HOW DO I  
RELATED TO  
GOD?

GOD QUESTIONS





**The Question: “How do I relate to God?” ...**

## John 3:1-2

**Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”**





**You *can* have a relationship with God by  
being good ...**

## Leviticus 27:30

**“A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.**

## Matthew 23:23

**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.**

## Luke 18:11-12

**The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:  
'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'**

## Matthew 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

## Leviticus 11:45

**I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.**



**You can have a relationship with God on  
your own terms ...**

## John 3:2

**He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”**



You can have a relationship with God on  
your own terms ...

**We call this: “IDOLATRY”**

## John 3:3

**Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

Being “born again” means ...

1. Admitting what's wrong.

Being “born again” means ...

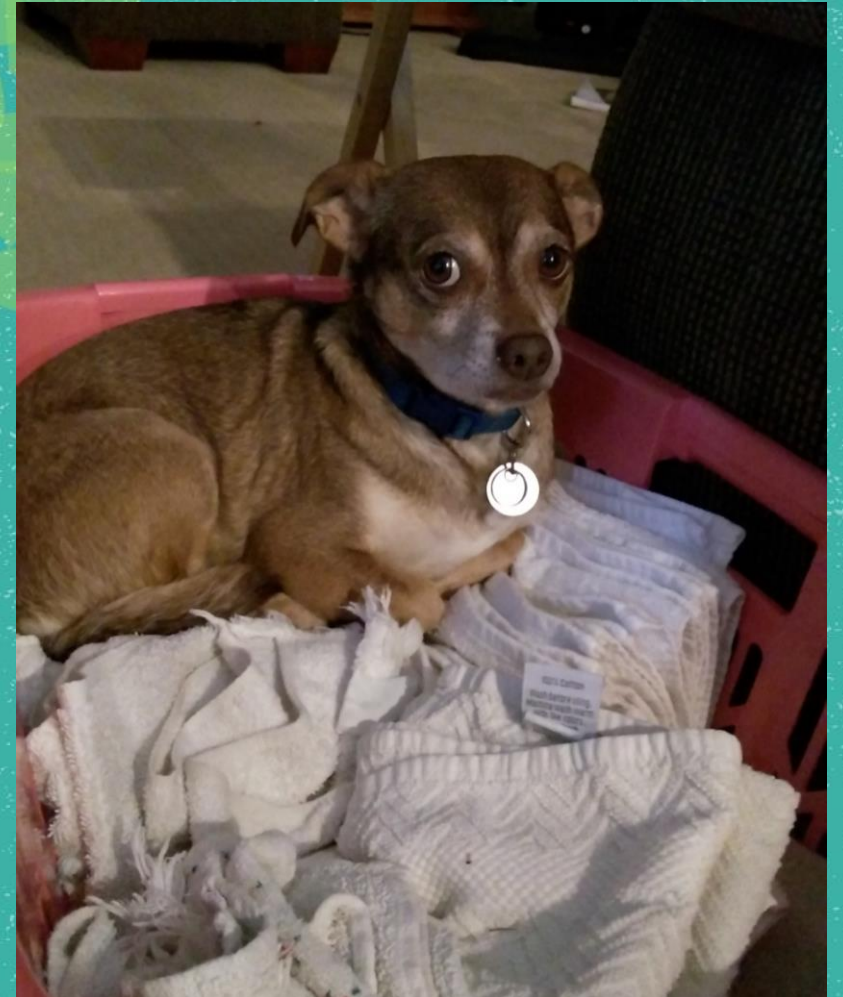
1. Admitting what's wrong.

- Not covering up sin.

Being “born again” means ...

1. Admitting what's wrong.

- Not covering up sin.



## John 3:5

**Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.”**

## John 2:6

**Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.**

Being “born again” means ...

1. Admitting what's wrong.

- Not covering up sin.
- But cleansing from sin.



## Ezekiel 36:25,27

**I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols...And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.**

## Acts 2:38

**Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

# 1 Peter 3:21

**... baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,**

## Being “born again” means ...

### 1. Admitting what's wrong.

- Not covering up sin.
- But cleansing from sin.

### 2. Believing what's right.

## John 3:13

**No one has ever gone into heaven except  
the one who came from heaven—the  
Son of Man.**

## John 3:16

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

## John 3:18

**Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.**

## John 14:6

**Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**