

"WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?"

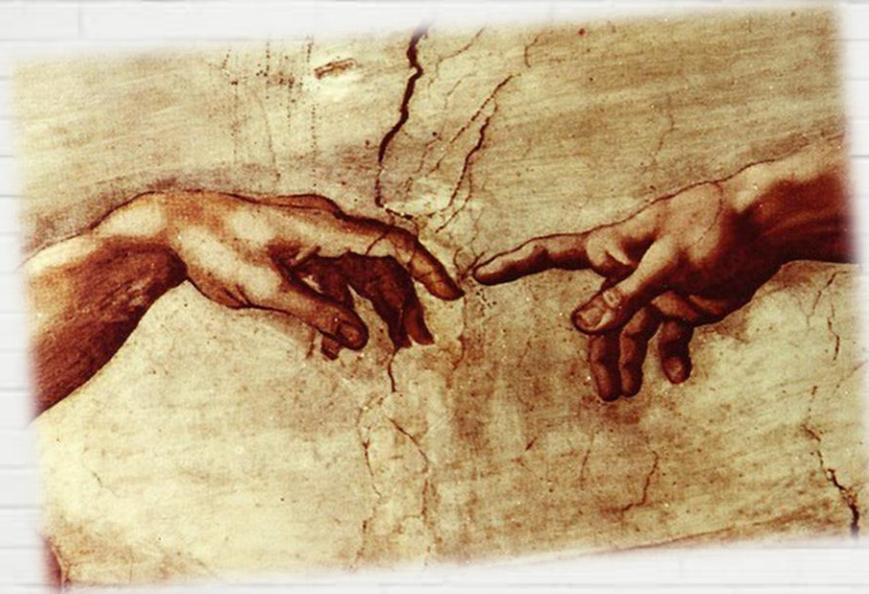
PUREFLIX PRESENTS

GOOD'S  
DEAD

NOT



# More Than Just Not Dead!



*“OK, so God’s not Dead.  
What now?”*

# Truth in Bumper Stickers

- I was an honor student. I don't know what happened!
- Please don't hit me. I'm not sure about my coverage.
- Watch out for the idiot behind me!

# Truth in Bumper Stickers

- One senior had this bumper sticker on his car, “Caution—this car makes frequent stops at bathrooms.”
- Honk if one of my kids flies out!
- If you can read this...  
I am not impressed. Most people can read.

# Truth in Bumper Stickers

One of my favorites has to do with friendship, which is what we're going to talk about today. The bumper sticker says,

***“God, make me the man  
my dog thinks I am.”***

That's real friendship... unconditional acceptance! No matter what happens, I'm still your friend and I want to be with you.

# Joseph Medicott Scriven

- He was an Irish immigrant, a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin.
- Wed to be married at 25, but on the day before his wedding, everything changed.
- While crossing a bridge to visit Joseph, his fiancée fell off her horse and drowned in the River Bann in Ireland...

# Joseph Medicott Scriven

- Crushed, he sailed to Canada to forget and start his life again.
- Eventually he fell in love again and the world was right again for Joseph Scriven.
- Before the wedding, his fiancée got very sick and 4 months later died of pneumonia.

# A Friend or Foe?

If it were you,  
**would you  
blame God,  
turn away from  
Him, and  
despair of His  
supposed  
goodness?**



# God, a Friend?

Heartbroken and helpless, Scriven did the only thing he could do in 1860. He wrote a letter to his mother and sent her a poem.

Despite his adversity and pain, Joseph Scriven never lost faith in his best Friend. The poem he wrote to his mother had to do with his unshakeable faith in the goodness and care of God.

# What a Friend We Have in Jesus

The poem eventually was set to music and became a famous hymn about friendship with Jesus Christ.

*What a friend we have in Jesus,*

*All our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry*

*Everything to God in prayer!*

*Oh, what peace we often forfeit,*

*Oh, what needless pain we bear,*

*All because we do not carry*

*Everything to God in prayer!*



# God--The Closest Friend!

**Joseph Scriven** considered Jesus to be his best friend!, and despite his loss, his trust in his friend never wavered, and he stood with Him in a life of ministry to the poor in Port Hope, Ontario until his death in 1886.

In the film, *God's Not Dead*, **Josh Wheaton** takes a stand for his Christian belief in God with his college philosophy class, trusting in his Friend to see him through!

# Standing For Your Friend



How would you respond to an attack on your friend?

How far would you go to defend a friend?

How far would you go to defend God?

# Friendship With God

Is God your friend?



**Psalm 46:1** says,  
God is our mighty  
fortress, always ready  
to help in times of  
trouble.

# Friendship With God

- Joseph Scriven knew God as a friend.
- In *God's Not Dead*, Josh Wheaton knew God as His friend.
- In the Bible, God wants to be known this way.
- In James 2:23, Abraham is described as friends with God.
- **God wants to be your friend!** God will always be God—high and lifted up! Holy and All-Powerful! But He wants to be our friend.

# Friendship With God

But friendship is a two-way street.

**God wants you to be His friend!** That is, he wants you to be personally invested in the relationship, too!



# What Makes A Friend?

## Proverbs 17:17

A friend **loves at all times**, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

A real friend is **consistent.**



# What Makes A Friend?

## Proverbs 27:5-6

Better is open rebuke than hidden love. **Wounds from a friend can be trusted,** but an enemy multiplies kisses.



Friends are **honest** with each other.

# What Makes A Friend?

## Proverbs 27:5-6

One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is **a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**

Friends are **close.**



# Friendship

***“If Jesus Christ be God, and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”***

(Missionary C.T. Studd)

***“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”***

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

GOOD'S

NOT

DEAD

Would you accept  
Jesus Christ as your  
Savior and as your  
Friend?

Would you be His  
friend?

What a friend we  
have in Jesus!

