

is why God became a human being. Jesus said he came to “seek (look for) and save the lost”. It is why he suffered and died.

Jesus made sure that one sentence of his would be repeated over and over in all churches through the centuries, that calls itself “Christian”. In the “Lord’s Supper (or communion) he says, “This is (represents) my blood of the new covenant, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

Not seeing the need of the cross, makes Jesus’ sufferings unnecessary. The Bible says, “If we can be forgiven by obeying the Law (the Bible’s commands) then Jesus died for nothing.” These people walk past the cross on their way to hell, saying to Jesus, “I don’t need you.”

They *ignore the sins they do have* and do not see them as serious as God sees them. If a husband tells his wife he would like to go sleep with his ex-girl-friend one night a year, that would not fly at my house or at yours.

There are degrees of sin. stealing a paper clip is not as bad as abducting a child. That is why Jesus says there will be degrees of punishment in hell. (Lk. 12:47) Any amount of sin is repulsive & unacceptable to God. It is rebellion.

Let’s say you are making a 20-egg omelet and you throw them in one by one. You say 15 – 16 – 17 and “18” is rotten. You think you need 20 so you throw it in. Nobody wants to eat any of that omelet and it’s the same with God.

These people do break God’s commands. In the “top ten” (Ex. 20) He tells us not to kill but Jesus extended that and tells us not to call anybody by an offensive name; to love our enemies and to “turn the other cheek” - not retaliate. [Matt. 5-7].

I have been a Christian for 67 years and every morning I ask God to help me do what’s right. I

always do something that is “unlike Jesus” and immediately pray for forgiveness and the ability to overcome that attitude or action. All I can say is I’m trying to be better.

The closer we get to Jesus the more we see our bad actions and attitudes. A true Christian trying to live for God would no more think he could enter the presence of a holy God without Jesus, than he would think he could lie face down on the surface of the sun and live.

In Jesus’ longest description of the Day of Judgment (Matt. 25) he talks about people being sent to hell, because they did not help him. They did not feed him when he was hungry or give Him clothes when he needed them. The people asked when they had *not* done this and he said if you have not done it to your fellow human-beings you have not done it for me. Every person is God’s creation and someone He sent His son to suffer and die for. (1 Jn. 2)

*People with sins like ours killed Jesus* Forty years after Jesus went back to heaven, Hebrews six says people who were turning their back on Jesus, were “crucifying the Son of God all over again.” (Ch. 6) The Pharisees, the ones most responsible, had pride and anger. The spectators at the Cross were there for the show. Some of this is in each one of us.

Finally, given the right circumstances, each one of us is *capable of doing all kinds of evil*. Who of us can say we would not trample a child to get out of a burning building? Doing good *cannot change the human heart*. We can turn the other cheek and hate the person who slaps us. Only God in the new birth can change who we are. Trying to be better It’s like putting talcum powder on cancer. Jeremiah 13 says,

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you who are accustomed to doing evil do good.”