

HOW CAN GOD ACCEPT US? / *Romans 2:1*

The Problem:

We resist God.

We ignore God.

We attempt to deceive God.

We work against God's interests.

We acknowledge God only when we are in trouble.

We consider our plans and desires before God's.

We do not love God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

How can we even hope to have an intimate relationship with God, or to go to heaven after this life?

False solutions:

Deny there is a God, but create our own god out of something or someone else.

Live in guilt, punishing ourselves or masking the guilt behind alcohol and drugs.

Use religion (works, church attendance, service) as a substitute for faith, loving God, and obeying him.

Assume or vaguely hope God will save us anyway.

Conclude God is too demanding and live in despair or apathy.

True solution:

Recognize the answer to our problem is faith and trust in Christ.

Accept God's gracious gift of forgiveness, believing in his love.

Realize that God is willing to declare us not guilty, and that he alone can do that.

Live in the freedom provided by God, enjoying the opportunity to express our thanks by obedience rather than trying to earn his acceptance.

Humbly accept the fact that Christ's substitution for us accomplished what we could not have done for ourselves.