



## Does God exist?

"Look at the suffering, anguish and misery ... God does not exist!"

Before reaching such a conclusion, let's make a comparison.

Let's say that construction workers and professionals are upset by the requirement of working according to the architect's blueprint. One by one, they begin to modify details to their liking and convenience. Over time, what one does or does not do affects the other. And the other, in turn, to compensate for the inconvenience that had been caused, does the same. At the end, in unanimous agreement, they shout: "Let's throw out the plans! Everyone do as they want. Let's put our own ideas into practice!"

The result would make us laugh, since now the bricklayer has no idea where the pipes are going to be placed, and the carpenter cannot find suitable places to nail the door frames. This would be a disaster!

This is more or less what has happened in the world for centuries and is still happening today. Therefore, there is confusion and misery.

Logically, God should not be blamed if human beings do not consult the blueprint. Many do not even know that such a design for life exists.

Although you may not realize it, you are an

important part of the plan and purpose of God, the Creator. Actually, He has a special plan and a destiny for you. You need to understand that this plan exists and then act in accordance with it and accept God's will for your life.

So, where can we find this blueprint? It's in the Bible. This is the book that presents, in great detail, the character of God, his point of view, the history of human rebellion and the path to restoration. Clearly, if people wanted to live by this book, the world would be a much happier and more orderly place.

And to help us do that, God came into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. He desires to be our Savior and Lord. When a person surrenders himself to God, he realizes his true destiny and begins a better life. This is why genuine Christians are able to live confidently and calmly in the face of the world's turmoil.

However, many people find it restrictive to accept and trust God, and to conform to his blueprint. They prefer to keep struggling, living according to their own whims. Over the years these people find themselves increasingly frustrated and disillusioned with life. Their only hope is to accept God and His blueprint, and the sooner they do so, the better. □

# How to reconcile a marriage

Mary had always dreamed of having the perfect husband, and when she met Antonio, she believed that she had found him.

However, before their first anniversary, she realized that Antonio had bad habits and life became increasingly difficult for the long-suffering woman. She tried to help him be a better man, but the more she advised him, the more Antonio became angry and the more he was gone from the house. The hours they spent together almost always ended in an argument and fight.

Desperate, Mary went to visit a pastor for help. After a long conversation, Maria signed up for a weekend church retreat, hoping to find a way to reform her husband and save their marriage. During her time at the retreat she listened to other people's experiences, and soon she forgot about her marital problems. Maria became concerned about her own character, which she now recognized was not good.

She wavered for hours between the two alternatives: save face, or admit that she was wrong about many things and that she would need to change. In the hardest moments she received words of understanding from her new friends who had been through similar struggles. She found the possibility of a new life with Jesus at the center extremely attractive.

Once her decision to follow Christ was made, Maria experienced something new. It was not so much a question of heavenly visions or emotional happiness, but a radical change in her way of thinking and seeing the world.

Back at home, she decided not to tell her husband anything. Instead she wanted to put her new belief in Christ and in God's word, the Bible, into practice. This was partly because she didn't know how to talk about her new faith and partly

because she wanted to make sure it was genuine.

Instead of lecturing Antonio, Mary thought of the happiness of her husband, and this left him confused. How could he answer the same as before if she didn't treat him like before? Logically, he changed his way of behaving, treating her with consideration and affection.



One day, in her joy, Mary openly told her husband that he had changed.

Antonio replied: "I have not changed! It is you who have changed. I want to know what happened to you!"

Something new and different occurred. Mary apologized to him for her selfishness and lack of communication for so many years. She then had the joy of sharing with him the new life that she had found by receiving Christ into her heart.

The most urgent need is a change of attitude towards yourself, others and primarily towards God.

The lesson that Maria learned is something that applies to any human relationship. If you desire to see others change, you need to change first. They will find it unsettling to continue treating you the same when you treat them differently. □



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# Can you know for sure?



**A** reporter with a microphone in hand interviewed one person after another, and asked them: Do you think it is possible to know for sure that one is going to heaven?

A university student replied:

- Of course not.
- Why not?
- Well, first of all, you have to determine if there is a heaven.
- And what do you think?
- I don't think there is one. I find it difficult. In my opinion, once you die, it is all over.

Another interviewee was a lawyer, who believed that you are sure to go to heaven if you are good — that is, if you keep the Ten Commandments.

Others relied on "keeping the laws and regulations" but could not define what they were. Someone replied that a person goes to heaven

if they observe the laws of their religion, whatever that religion may be.

One woman thought that the privilege of going to heaven was mainly a matter of belief and that faith had something to do with it. But, she had no idea what to believe.

Of 18 people questioned, none proved to have thought it through, and no one cited an authority to support their view of heaven. The various opinions left a sad confusion.

What is the answer based on the Word of God?

Wouldn't it be a contradiction if God offered man salvation and eternal life and then left him to discover that after death (when it is too late) there is no heaven? God tells us at this present time how to enter heaven in terms so clear that anyone can understand.

Jesus said, *"I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you may be also"* (John 14: 2,3). He is already in heaven and we have his word that this is where he will bring those of us who have trusted Him as our Savior.

The apostle John also says in the Bible in 1 John 5:13: *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

The key is to trust Christ. *"He who believes in the Son of God, he has the testimony in himself; whoever does not believe God has made him a liar"* (1 John 5:10). □