

**The #1
REASON
For God**



A Perspective To Consider

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For God



A Perspective To Consider

For those who are:

- Seeking God.
- New believers in God.
- Doubting their faith in God.
- Atheists who used to believe in God.

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Part 1:

The Foundation of Faith

INTRODUCTION

I want you to imagine a table. On that table, I want you to stack up all of your beliefs/thoughts about God, Christianity, and the Bible.

Once you have that image in your mind, I want you to now imagine yourself knocking over everything you had stacked up on the table right onto the floor.

The only thing that's left should be the table. That table represents *The Foundation of Faith*.

A foundation is defined as the most important part of a structure. The strength and stability of the structure depends upon its foundation.

If we view the Christian faith as a structure, what is the *Foundation* that all other beliefs/thoughts about God, Christianity, and the Bible are built upon? What is the most important aspect of the Christian faith?

Let's find out by first observing the world/reality that we are born into.

REALITY CHECK

As we know, money is very important in our world/ reality.

However, imagine if you were to ask every human being on this planet this question:

“What would you rather choose: Great family/ friends, but you have no money OR a lot of money, but you have no family/friends?”

What do you think the vast majority of human beings will choose?

I hope you would agree with me and confidently say great family/friends.

The reason why most people would choose great family/friends over money is because people have more value than money.

Let's go a step further.

What makes people more valuable?

Actually, let me ask in a different way.

What makes great family/friends valuable?

I hope you would agree with me and confidently say love!

I'm convinced that love is most important. Why? Because love is goodness. In other words, love means to do good. Doing good includes, but not limited to:

- Being respectful.
- Being kind.
- Being honest.
- Having compassion.
- Being considerate.
- Showing appreciation.
- Seeking justice.
- Seeking peace.
- Seeking unity.

We enjoy great family/friends because of the love/goodness we're able to experience!

Do you know why acts such as abuse, murder, and rape are wrong? Because they violate love. Do you know why those wrong acts will make us sad, angry and wanting justice? Because love is the standard we innately desire to live by.

Now, here's the key question: When people experience the terrible acts of abuse, murder, and rape, do they deserve justice?

I hope you would agree with me and confidently say yes!

Why do they deserve justice? Because they have value! We understand that if something (or someone) has value and it has been violated, then that value must be properly rectified and that violation must be fully addressed. That value deserves justice.

If that's the case, then there's a very serious problem.

Since mistreated people deserve justice, will all mistreated people throughout all time experience justice? Unfortunately no.

But wait! Hold on! How can we say people have value and yet acknowledge that all mistreated people won't experience justice?

What is the solution to this very serious problem?

Many will say there is no solution and we just have to accept that life is unfair.

But hold on! We live in a world/reality where "life is unfair", but yet we have an innate sense of justice. Doesn't that seem..... odd?

Is it true that our only option is to accept that there is no solution and simply accept the unfairness of life?

Well, it depends. That would be the only option, unless someone has the attributes needed to

establish justice for all mistreated people throughout all time.

What are the attributes needed?

- **Perfectly Righteous**- You must be absolutely just and fair in order to be qualified to judge every human being throughout all time.
- **Omniscient**- You must be absolutely aware of every situation of every human being, throughout all time, in order to justly and fairly judge them.
- **Perfectly Wise**- You must be able to make the absolute best decisions in all situations in order to justly and fairly judge every human being throughout all time.
- **Sovereign**- You must have absolute authority in order to judge every human being throughout all time.
- **Transcendent**- You must be absolutely able to judge every human being throughout all time.

There's no one in our world/reality who has any of those attributes, let alone all of them. Those who say there's no solution have a good point, but their point is only valid if they don't look beyond what our world/reality can offer!

THE INITIAL REASON FOR GOD

The only being who could possibly have all of those attributes is a god, and the initial reason to even entertain the idea of a god is to get what we cannot give ourselves.

What is it that we cannot give ourselves? The ability to establish justice for all mistreated people throughout all time. Why is that important? Because being mistreated is a violation of love and mistreated people deserve justice.

But wait! If we are to entertain the idea of a god, which god? There are many beliefs of different gods. Which god is the true god?

Well, in order for us to know who the real god is, we must find a connection between that god and what we realized so far.

This god must acknowledge:

1. Love is most important.
2. Humanity has value.
3. All mistreated people throughout all time deserves justice.

If we were to find who this god is, it would make logical sense for us to put our hope in this god because we will be able to get what we cannot give ourselves.

Now, who do I believe this God is? I believe it's the God of Christianity. I believe He is the true and only God.

Many might say:

"You chose Christianity like you would your favorite flavor of ice cream. You only like it because it's your favorite. However, it's wrong of you to say your favorite flavor is the truth because other flavors exist. You haven't tried them all and you might find another flavor that's better. Plus, other people like different flavors."

I understand their point, but the Christian faith isn't meant to be viewed as a flavor of ice cream. It's meant to be viewed as the only solution to the very serious problem that we mentioned before.

I put my hope in the God of Christianity because I realized He acknowledges:

1. Love is most important.
2. Humanity has value.
3. All mistreated people throughout all time deserves justice.

How do I know? Because of the Bible.

THE BIBLE AS GOD'S WORD

First of all, why is the Bible considered to be God's Word?

Because the Bible has the information that God Himself wants us to know.

How do I know?

Because God *must* validate the hope that we have.

- With God, our hope is the certainty of what hasn't been realized yet.
- Without God, our hope is just wishful thinking.

Just read what the Bible verse *Romans 15:4* says:

"And the Scriptures (Bible) were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope."

The Bible needs to be God's Word because if it wasn't, we will not have any reassurance of the hope we have.

THE HOPE THAT THE BIBLE GIVES

Let's look at how the Bible gives us hope:

1. Does the Bible acknowledge the importance of love?

- *"Love is more important than anything else." - Colossians 3:14*
- *"Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'" - Matthew 22:37-39*
- *"For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:13*

2. Does the Bible acknowledge the value of humanity?

- *"God created men and women to be like Himself. He gave them His blessing and called them human beings." - Genesis 5:1-2*
- *"I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not*

powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!" - Romans 8:38-39

- *"But God showed how much He loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful." - Romans 5:8*

3. Does the Bible acknowledge the importance of justice?

- *"The Lord is a mighty rock, and He never does wrong. God can always be trusted to bring justice." - Deuteronomy 32:4*
- *"The wicked are cut down, and those who are wronged receive justice." - Job 36:6*
- *"God sees that justice is done, and He watches over everyone who is faithful to Him." - Proverbs 2:8*
- *"Then a kingdom of love will be set up, and someone from David's family (Jesus) will rule with fairness. He will do what is right and quickly bring justice." - Isaiah 16:5*

CONCLUSION

So, after all I shared, what is the *Foundation of Faith*? It's actually a Bible verse that I consider to be the most important Bible verse. What is the verse?

"God is love." - 1 John 4:8

That one verse summarizes who the Christian God is and why He is the One we must put our hope in.

God identifying Himself as love shows the importance of love, shows how He values humanity, and shows the importance of justice.

When it comes to establishing beliefs/thoughts about God, Christianity, and the Bible, you **MUST** build upon the *Foundation of Faith*. Other beliefs/thoughts may change, but the *Foundation* must always remain the same because it's the *Foundation* that gives us the hope that we cannot give ourselves.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS

- Please allow me to share the biblical description of love:

“Love is patient and kind, never jealous, boastful, proud, or rude. Love isn't selfish or quick tempered. It doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Hold on! If God is love, then **1 Corinthians 13:4-6** describes God's character:

- *He is patient.*
- *He is kind.*
- *He is never jealous.*
- *He is never boastful.*
- *He is never proud.*
- *He is never rude.*
- *He isn't selfish.*
- *He isn't quick tempered.*
- *He doesn't keep a record of wrongs that others do.*
- *He rejoices in the truth, but not in evil.*

But hold on again! If God is love and we (humanity) were created to be like God, then **1 Corinthians 13:4-6** describes how we are meant to be. We should:

- *Be patient.*
- *Be kind.*
- *Never be jealous.*
- *Never be boastful.*
- *Never be proud.*
- *Never be rude.*
- *Not be selfish.*
- *Not be quick tempered.*
- *Not keep a record of wrongs that others do.*
- *Rejoice in the truth, but not in evil.*

We were created to love, for love, and by love!

- There are those who will say that I'm just cherry picking Bible verses to make God sound better than what the rest of the Bible describes Him to be.

I will respond and say that I am focusing on the parts of the Bible that are consistent with the *Foundation of Faith*, and I'm convinced that any biblical understanding, interpretation, or doctrine that clearly contradicts the *Foundation of Faith* is certainly false!

- But what about the parts of the Bible that are confusing and hard to understand?

When it comes to the confusing and difficult parts of the Bible, we should pray to God for

understanding, we should listen to pastors, we should read Bible commentaries, and do whatever else that could help us to understand. If we still don't get clear understanding, then we should simply keep a mental note of it and wait to ask God about it face-to-face.

We must not allow the parts of the Bible that are confusing and hard to understand to stop us from accepting the hope that it offers. Why? Because we do not have to understand, accept, and agree with the entirety of the Bible in order to put our hope in God.

I will say it again.

We DO NOT have to understand, accept, and agree with the entirety of the Bible in order to put our hope in God!

- Do you know what the verse *Psalm 14:1* means when it says, "*Only a fool would say, 'There is no God!'*"?

The verse isn't meant to be an attack on atheists. If it was, that would be very insensitive because it invalidates their experiences and reasons for being atheists.

The verse is meant to expose the terrible implication of atheism. What implication is that?

To accept atheism, you must also accept that all mistreated people throughout all time will not experience justice.

If a fool is defined as *“a person who acts unwisely”*, then only a fool would reject the hope that God gives because it is unwise to say all mistreated people throughout all time will not experience justice. As stated before, if something (or someone) has value and that value has been violated, then that value deserves justice.

- There are those who will say that my perspective is emotionally driven. I will respond and say that my perspective is surely emotional, but emotional doesn't necessarily mean devoid of logic. Emotions and logic are not mutually exclusive. In fact, the emotion that you **MUST** have to logically understand my perspective is compassion.
- What about the problem of evil?

How is it possible that a God of love, who has the power and knowledge to prevent evil, would allow evil to exist? That seems like a contradiction.

I will say:

"If I had God's omnipotence, you would see me make many changes in the world. However, if I had God's omniscience too, I would leave things as they are." (Inspired by a quote from J.M.L. Monsabre.)

It's easy to have the perspective of seeing ourselves making many changes in the world if we had God's power. However, is it logically possible that our perspective would change if we also had God's knowledge?

The more we know about something, the more likely our perspective will change. If we had the entirety of God's knowledge about the physical world (and spiritual world), then surely our initial perspective would change.

I agree that the problem of evil is a contradiction, but only from our limited perspective. If God is love and He didn't prevent evil while having the ability to, then there **MUST** be a significant reason why that we don't know about.

"We must hold tightly to our hope without wavering. After all, we can trust God to keep His promise." - Hebrews 10:23

Part 2:

The Way to Perfect Peace

Introduction

If I truly believe every person has intrinsic value, would I want to live in this world where people are mistreated, violated, abused, and murdered without justice?

Here are my options:

- **Option A-** *"No, but I have no choice. To live in this world, I must accept that people are mistreated, violated, abused, and murdered without justice."*
- **Option B-** *"No, which is why I don't want to live in this world anymore."*

I cannot, in good conscience, choose Option A. Since I believe people have intrinsic value, then Option B is the most logical answer.

But wait! There's hope! There's another option!

- **Option C-** *"No, but I have faith in God who's able to establish justice in this world."*

Allow me to further explain Option C.

The Starting Point

1. If God is love (*1 John 4:8*) and He created humanity in His image (*Gen 1:27*), then every human being, throughout all time, was created with objective value & dignity.
2. If humanity was created with objective value & dignity, then every human being, throughout all time, deserves justice when wronged.
3. We live in a world where every human being, throughout all time, doesn't experience justice when wronged.
4. If that's true, then that's a serious problem. However, there is a solution.
5. The solution is perfect peace!

1. What is perfect peace?

“Perfect peace is the time when all injustice, throughout all time, will receive justice and goodness (love) will prevail exclusively forever.”

(Inspired by: Ps. 45:6, Ps. 96:13, Isa. 16:5)

2. As you know, perfect peace is impossible in this world. *Ecclesiastes 3:16* says...

“Everywhere on earth I saw violence and injustice instead of fairness and justice.”

3. Many will say, *“I just can’t imagine perfect peace.”* Well, that’s why we have faith! Here’s how the Bible describes faith:

“Faith is the assurance of what we hope for, the certainty of what we do not see. We hope for what we have not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it.” (Hebrews 11:1, Romans 8:25)

What is it that we hope for that we cannot see?
Perfect peace!

4. Philippians 4:7 says...

"The peace of God transcends all understanding."

Also, Jesus said in *John 14:27*...

"I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give."

Based on those verses, only Jesus/God can establish perfect peace!

5. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says...

"We walk by faith, not by what we see."

Having faith means we trust God to establish perfect peace, which is why *Hebrews 11:6* says,

"Without faith, no one can please God."

6. It's true that we are free to reject having faith in Jesus/God and simply enjoy our lives in this world. However, understand that by rejecting faith in Jesus/God, we also reject perfect peace, which results in us ignoring justice for all people throughout all time. If that's the case, then we must, by default, accept the injustice in this world. *Proverbs 28:5* says...

"Those who reject God do not understand justice, but those who follow God understand it completely."

7. According to *Isaiah 32:17*...

"Justice will produce lasting peace."

Before there can be perfect peace, justice for all people, throughout all time, **MUST** happen first! That's why *Acts 17:31* says,

"For God has set a day when He will judge the world with justice."

8. Here are our options: Have faith in Jesus/God for perfect peace, or reject faith in Jesus/God for this unjust world. Jesus said...

"If you have faith in Me, then you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, but if you are not with Me, then you are against Me." (John 15:19, Luke 11:23)

9. *1 Corinthians 13:10* says...

"When the time of perfection comes, everything that isn't perfect will come to an end."

Perfect peace is coming, and if we want to experience it, then we must be perfect. Are we perfect? No, but don't be discouraged! *Hebrews 10:14* says,

*"Because of what Jesus did, He has eternally **perfected** everyone who He brings to God."*

10. *"I pray that God will be kind to you and will let you live in perfect peace! May you keep learning more and more about God and our Lord Jesus." - 2 Peter 1:2*

Conclusion

Here is the question: If God is love, why hasn't He stopped all the injustice in the world?

The answer: Because it isn't the right time, but the time will come!

God said, "At the time I have decided, My words will come true. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting-- it will happen!"

- Habakkuk 2:3

It's a misconception to think that since God doesn't intervene now, then He will never intervene. Goodness isn't always represented as an immediate response. It can also be represented as an *eventual* response. God's goodness isn't based on the timing of His response, but on the certainty that He will respond!

Because God is love, not only will He eventually end all the injustice in the world, He must! Goodness must always address & rectify injustice in order to create (*perfect*) peace!

Q: What is the #1 reason to have faith in God?

A: For the hope that we cannot give ourselves, which is perfect peace!

About Me (The author)

- *I never joined a church before.*
- *I didn't grow up in the faith.*
- *I found God through philosophy at age 17 in 2009.*



Lord God,

I pray that everyone who reads this booklet will grow to truly know and trust You for who You are based on the *Foundation of Faith*.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, I pray this to the Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

God's Invitation To Humanity:

"I invite the whole world to turn to Me and be saved. I will save anyone who asks for My help. No matter how far away you are, you can turn to Me!"

(Isaiah 45:22, Acts 2:21, Nehemiah 1:9)



If you want to read more from Anthony Coleman about God and the Christian faith, please go to his site: PICministry.org

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