

Another Collection of Essays:

**Who
Is
God?**

By. Anthony Coleman

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Disclaimer: I will be honest and say that I don't understand everything that's in the Bible, but I don't think we need to in order to have faith. The main message is most important! *"The Scriptures (Bible) were written to teach and encourage us to have hope." - Romans 15:4*

Introduction: My Testimony

By. Anthony Coleman

From as early as I can remember, I always wanted to be *respectful* and *kind* to others. Being mean and rude just didn't make sense to me. If I knew I had the choice to make things better or worse, why in the world would I want to make things worse? That was the mindset that led me to the Christian faith!

Allow me to explain...

Growing up, I would say my childhood was average. However, it was 11th grade of high school when everything changed for me. That was the year I started soul-searching.

During 11th grade, the topic of discussion was college, but I had no interest in going. I was told that college was "important" because of the better jobs you can get, but I soon realized that it wasn't college that was important. It was money! So, I started to think of ways to make money to get rich for I wouldn't have to worry about college. However, my pursuit of money was short-lived because a new thought came to mind. The thought of ultimate meaning & purpose to life!

I learned that money wasn't most important. Money was actually a huge distraction from what's most important. What's most important? Love! (*Respect and kindness are qualities of love.*)

But that's when I got confused. If love is most important, why is society so distracted by the trivial things in life while ignoring love? All the violence, corruption, injustice, etc., that we experience could cease to exist if we all chose to love. Unfortunately, we all don't choose love, which allows violence, corruption, injustice, etc., to continue to exist. That realization was (*and still is*) painful.

Let's recap my thought process so far around this time:

1. I'm not interested in going to college.
2. Money isn't most important to me.
3. I know that love is most important, which means love is the ultimate meaning & purpose to life.
4. I want to live in a world where everyone chooses love, but I know everyone doesn't/won't choose love.

Because of having all this in mind, I started to somewhat wrestle with thoughts of suicide. (*Never attempted!*)

I asked myself questions like, "Why would I want to strive to live in a world where people have to experience violence, corruption, and injustice?" "How could love coexist with evil?" "Do I really

want to live in a world like this?" "How could I enjoy life knowing someone has suffered/is suffering/will suffer unjustly in this world?"

I really wanted to find answers to those deep questions. I read a lot of books about philosophy and I did gain some insight from them, but it still wasn't enough. I still wasn't fulfilled. There was still something missing, and that's when it happened! There was one book I started to read and in that book, there was a Bible verse. That Bible verse was my first step towards the Christian faith. What Bible verse am I referring to?

It was *1 John 4:8*: **"God is love."**

Before I read that verse, I didn't really think about God. All I knew was if God existed, He was supposed to be All-Powerful.

After I read that verse, I was absolutely convinced that love was indeed most important. If the All-Powerful Being identifies Himself as love, then that's a connection I cannot ignore. Also, if God is indeed love, then surely He will have the answers that I've been searching for. Well, after reading about God in the Bible, I was absolutely correct!

It all started to make sense! Because of the Bible, I learned more about love, about God, about this world, about Jesus and what He did for us, and most importantly, I found hope! A year later, I got baptized and by having faith in God/Jesus, I became a Child of God!

Who Is God?

By. Anthony Coleman

First, here is a very simple description:

God is the Uncaused, Eternal Being.

For a specific description of who God is, we need to understand His Nature and His Character. *(Not a complete list.)*

God's Nature:

God is Spiritual - He exists in a reality that isn't material.

God is the Creator - He is the Creator of all that exist, spiritual and material.

God is Personal - He is able to pursue His own desires and choices.

God is Self-Sufficient - He is absolutely complete within Himself and needs nothing outside Himself.

God is Triune - He is a unity of three Persons.

God is Omnipotent - He has the absolute power to actualize whatever He desires in existence.

God is Omniscient - He has absolute knowledge about everything in existence.

God is Omnipresent - He is absolutely aware of all that goes on in existence.

God is Sovereign - He has absolute authority in existence & over His creation.

God is Immutable - He is absolutely consistent in who He is and He will never change.

God is Transcendent - He is absolutely beyond all of creation & existence.

God's Character:

God is Holy - He is perfectly good, and He absolutely cannot (and will not) take part in any form of evil, corruption, or injustice.

God is Just - He absolutely must address and rectify all forms of evil, corruption and injustice.

God is Wise - He knows the absolute, best solution for every possible situation.

God is Purposeful - He doesn't exist simply for the sake of existing. He has an absolute purpose to His existence. *(That purpose is love, and He created other beings to ultimately experience His perfect love with Him for eternity!)*

God is Love - Love is the embodiment of goodness and all good values stem from love, which means God is the embodiment of goodness and all good values. Let's look at a small list of God's good values:

- He is Faithful
- He is Kind
- He is Empathetic
- He is Humble
- He is Patient
- He is Forgiving/Gracious/Merciful *(Thank you Jesus!)*
- He is Honest
- He is Peaceful
- He is Respectful

Even though we are able to know the essentials of who God is, we still don't completely know everything about Him *(especially about His ways)*, but that's why we have faith!

Who Is God?:

But How Is God Three Persons (Triune)?

I admit, this aspect of God is tough to understand, but I will share how I'm able to understand it.

First, I want to talk about what God said about marriage. In the Bible, the verse *Genesis 2:24* (and *Mark 10:7-8*) states, *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one flesh."*

But wait! Just because a man and a woman are married doesn't mean they stop being two individuals. So, what did the verse mean by "they are no longer two, but one flesh"?

It doesn't mean they literally fused into one being. It means they have united as one; as one family! They were a part of two separate families (*their parents*) and when they got married, they left their separate families in order to become a family of their own. That's why they are no longer two, but have become one.

Now, we know there is only one God, but what if God is actually one family of three Persons?

First, let's identify each Person:

- The Father
- The Son (Jesus)
- The Holy Spirit

Unlike a man and a woman who start out separate before they become one, the three Persons of God never started separate from each other. They always been united as one. Each Person might be distinct, but they are eternally one in essence, in nature, in character, in power, in equality, and in will. I truly believe that the three Persons of God is actually the family of God!

But if God is a family of three Persons, why is He almost always identified with singular pronouns instead of plural pronouns?

Because in a family, there may be a person who identifies as the head (Spokesperson) of the family, and it's the head who represents the family. Who is the head of the three Persons of God?

- "There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live." - 1 *Corinthians 8:6*

The Father is the Spokesperson for the three Persons of God! Whenever God is mentioned with singular pronouns in the Bible, it is referring to The Father.

However...

After Jesus ascended to Heaven, I'm thinking that maybe the Spokesperson position changed from The Father to The Son. Now, whenever we refer to God with singular pronouns, we are referring to Jesus! (*Just a theory.*)

Here are some verses to prove this theory:

- "He (Jesus) was crowned king and given power and glory, so that all people of every nation and race would serve Him. He will rule forever, and His kingdom is eternal, never to be destroyed." - *Daniel 7:14*
- "In Heaven, Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well." - *Ephesians 1:21*
- "Everything was created by Him, everything in Heaven and on Earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God's Son, and everything was made for Him." - *Colossians 1:16*
- "Christ is now in Heaven, where He sits at the right side of God. All angels, authorities, and powers are under His control." - *1 Peter 3:22*
- "Jesus said, 'I have been given all authority in Heaven and on Earth!'" - *Matthew 28:18*
- "But God says about His Son, 'You are God, and You will rule as King forever!'" - *Hebrews 1:8*

What about the Holy Spirit? What is His position? Let's look at a few verses:

- "God our Savior showed us how good and kind He is. He saved us because of His mercy, and not because of any good things that we have done. God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning." - *Titus 3:5*
- "The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death." - *Romans 8:2*
- "But Christ has blessed you with the Holy Spirit. Now the Spirit stays in you, and you don't need any teachers. The Spirit is truthful and teaches you everything. So stay one in your heart with Christ, just as the Spirit has taught you to do." - *1 John 2:27*

- "Jesus said, 'I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will reveal what is true and will guide you into all truth. The Spirit doesn't speak on His own. He will tell you only what He has heard from me.'" - *John 14:16,16:13*

As you can see, it's the Holy Spirit who guides us towards living faithful for God/Jesus. Not only that, we couldn't be saved without the Holy Spirit!

How so? First, let's look at one of my favorite verses:

- "Jesus said, 'I promise you that any of the sinful things you say or do can be forgiven, no matter how terrible those things are.'" - *Mark 3:28*

Now, let's look at the very next verse!:

- "Jesus said, 'But if you reject the Holy Spirit, you can never be forgiven. That sin will be held against you forever.'" - *Mark 3:29*

If the Holy Spirit leads us to having faith in Jesus/God, then rejecting the Holy Spirit means to reject our guide towards faith in Jesus/God. That's why we can never be forgiven. Without the Holy Spirit, we aren't able to receive God's forgiveness!

(Also, the only reason why God won't forgive that sin is because He isn't able to! How beautiful is that? God is Good!)

Here are some verses related to God's Triune nature (The Family of God):

- "Philip said to Jesus, 'Lord, show us the Father. That is all we need.' Jesus replied, 'Philip, I have been with you for a long time. Don't you know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father. How can you ask me to show you the Father? Don't you believe that I am one with the Father and that the Father is one with me?'" - *John 14:8-10*
- "Jesus said, 'Everything that the Father has is mine.'" - *John 16:15*
- "Jesus said, 'Father, give me back the glory that I had with You before the world was created.'" - *John 17:5*
- "Jesus said, 'I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'" - *John 5:19*
- "Jesus said, 'I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.'" - *John 5:30*

- "Jesus said to God, 'I want Your followers to be one with each other, just as I am one with You and You are one with me. I also want them to be one with Us.'" - *John 17:21*
- "Jesus said, 'If anyone loves me, they will obey me. Then my Father will love them, and We will come to them and live in them.'" - *John 14:23*
- "No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known." - *John 1:18*
- "God lives fully in Christ." - *Colossians 2:9*
- "Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us." - *Philippians 2:6-7*
- "The Son is the image of the invisible God." - *Colossians 1:15*
- "There is one God, the Father, by whom all things were created, and for whom we live. And there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things were created, and through whom we live." - *1 Corinthians 8:6*
- "Jesus said, 'He who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me.'" - *John 12:45*
- "In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. Then the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." - *John 1:1-4,14*
- "As soon as Jesus came out of the water, he saw the sky open and the Holy Spirit coming down to him like a dove. A voice from Heaven said, 'You are My own dear Son, and I am pleased with you.'" - *Mark 1:10-11*
- "The angel said to Mary, 'The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God.'" - *Luke 1:35*
- "Jesus said, 'I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know Him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.'" - *John 14:16-17*
- "But Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit. He looked toward Heaven, where he saw our glorious God and Jesus standing at His right side." - *Acts 7:55*

- "Jesus said, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.'" - *Matthew 28:19*
- "Christ also brought you the truth, which is the good news about how you can be saved. You put your faith in Christ and were given the promised Holy Spirit to show that you belong to God." - *Ephesians 1:13*
- "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." - *2 Corinthians 13:13-14*

Also, Isaiah 9:6 is proof that Jesus represents the Triune God!

"A child (Jesus) has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His names will be *Wonderful Advisor* (1) and *Mighty God* (2), *Eternal Father* (3) and *Prince of Peace* (4)."
- *Isaiah 9:6*

(1) John 14:26 (*Wonderful Advisor*):

"Jesus said, '**But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.'"

(2) John 10:30 (*Mighty God*):

"Jesus said, '**I and the Father are one.**'"

(3) John 12:49-50 (*Eternal Father*):

"Jesus said, 'I don't speak on my own. I say only what the Father who sent me has told me to say. **I know that His commands will bring eternal life.** That is why I tell you exactly what the Father has told me.'"

(4) John 14:27 (*Prince of Peace*):

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

The Depth Of Faith

By. Anthony Coleman

Even though there are many people who claim to believe in the Christian faith, there are those who do not analyze what it truly means to have faith. That's why I personally believe that it isn't necessarily a blessing for someone being a Christian just because they grew up in the faith. Why? Because instead of seeking God with all their heart, God was (*in a sense*) given to them. However, a relationship isn't something you can give to someone. Seeking God is our way of getting to know God in order to build our relationship with Him, but how can you build a relationship with God if you never sought after Him?

(Also, I'm not talking about everyone who grew up in the Christian faith.)

I didn't really grow up hearing about God and I'm thankful I didn't. Why? Because I had to seek God for myself. Before I could even consider having faith in God, there were certain questions I needed answers to, and to be honest, I don't think many Christians who grew up in the faith actually took the time to answer those questions. It's really unfortunate because those are the questions we need to answer in order to know God.

What are those questions?

1. Does an objective, moral standard exist? If so, why?
2. What is the purpose of free will?
3. What is the meaning/purpose of life?
4. What is a soul?
5. Is there life after death? If so, why?

Let's answer each question...

1. Does an objective, moral standard exist? If so, why?

ANSWER: Yes! An objective, moral standard exist and that standard is love! What is love? Love is the embodiment of goodness and all good values (*such as respect, honesty, forgiveness, justice, etc.*) stem from love.

But how does good values stem from love? Let's look at the good values of *respect, honesty, forgiveness and justice*:

If you *love* someone, you would...

- *Respect* that person.
- Be *honest* to that person.
- *Forgive* that person.
- Seek *justice* for that person if that person has been wronged.

As you can see, we apply good values whenever love is present. If all good values stem from love, then we can understand why love is the objective, moral standard.

2. Why do we have free will?

ANSWER: We have free will in order to choose love! Love might be objective, but we still have the option to choose love or not. The reason why there's so much evil & injustice in the world is because of the misuse of free will. It's really unfortunate.

3. What is the meaning/purpose of life?

ANSWER: Since love is the objective, moral standard and we have free will in order to love, then we can safely conclude that the meaning/purpose of life is love! We are to love ourselves and each other in order to reach a state of peace & unity!

4. What is a soul?

ANSWER: A soul is the spiritual essence of a human being. Our human body is not necessarily who we are, but contains who we are (*our soul*). For example: There are people who have physical and/or mental disabilities, but those disabilities are the results of issues with their human body and has nothing to do with the essence of who they are.

5. Is there life after death? If so, why?

ANSWER: Yes! There is life after death and it's because of love! Allow me to explain with two points...

1. Even though love exist, there is still so much evil & injustice in the world. However, I don't believe love is meant to coexist with evil & injustice. Because justice is a good value of love, I believe there will be a time when evil & injustice will cease to exist and love will be completely exclusive! Also,

because of justice, whoever contributed to the evil & injustice in the world must be held accountable. If that's the case, then there must be some kind of life after death.

2. Let's say you have a loving relationship/friendship with someone. If that connection remains loving, the only thing that would get in the way of your relationship/friendship is if one of you dies. If it wasn't for death, you would be able to continue your relationship/friendship forever! If that's the case, love transcends death, which is why I believe there is life beyond death!

But how did answering these questions lead me to the Christian faith?

1. Does an objective, moral standard exist? If so, why?

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

2. What is the purpose of free will?

ANSWER: "My friends, live as people who are free, but don't use your freedom as an excuse to do wrong. Live to be children of God! You were chosen to be free, but don't use your freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. All the commandments of God can be summed up in the command to, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'" - *1 Peter 2:16, Galatians 5:13-14*

3. What is the meaning/purpose of life?

ANSWER: "Jesus said, '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 as important as the first. And it is, Love others as much as you love yourself.'" - *Matthew 22:37-39*

4. What is a soul?

ANSWER: "Don't be afraid of people. They can kill your body, but they cannot harm your soul." - *Matthew 10:28*

5. Is there life after death? If so, why?

ANSWER: 1. "God has set a day when He will judge all the people of this world with justice." - *Acts 17:31*

2. "Love never ends." - *1 Corinthians 13:8*

We aren't meant to have blind faith! We aren't meant to have faith just because we grew up with it and it's familiar to us! We are meant to have the kind of faith that reflects our passion for wanting to know God!

How Could A Perfect Angel In Heaven Sin?

By Anthony Coleman

*This is just my theory.

1. Heaven is a place of perfect love.
2. Love is the embodiment of goodness. (*Goodness leads to good acts such as respect, honesty, integrity, etc.*)
3. Since love is a choice, free will must exist. (*Free will is the ability to choose love or reject love.*)
4. Angels were created in perfect love. Since they never were exposed to evil/negativity/corruption, they always found value and joy in goodness.
5. However, what if angels started to ask questions like, "Are we truly free? How do we know if we actually value goodness? What if we only value goodness because that's all we know?"
6. If angels existed in a certain reality in Heaven since they were created, then angels would've normalized that reality and would never focus on questioning their free will. If there was no change to their reality, then there would be no issue.
7. Change isn't evil or negative, but change can create opposition, which can cause a negative response.

What about Lucifer/Satan?

8. When Satan was created, He was considered (*By God*) as perfect, wise, and beautiful. It is implied that Satan was in the highest class of angels.
9. However, because of those qualities he possessed, he became arrogant and it was his arrogance that led him to sin. But wait! How could he have sinned if he was perfect?
10. Before Satan's rebellion, God considered Satan as perfect because Satan was doing exactly what God created him to do and he was also created "without sin". However, being without sin DOES NOT mean being impervious to sin. Since Satan sinned, it's logical to assume that Satan was perfect until he chose to sin.

11. What was it that caused Satan to sin? It was God's decision to create humanity! It was that decision that *changed* the reality in Heaven. *(The reason the word "changed" is italicized is because God didn't really change the reality in Heaven. He only revealed it more in depth. However, it could be seen as a change.)*

12. A lot of revelations were revealed when God decided to create humanity. First, in order for the creation of humanity to succeed, God must reveal His Triune nature. Jesus and the Holy Spirit must be introduced.

13. Because Satan thought Heaven only consisted of God and the angels, he also thought he was "second to God" because of his high status. Once he found out that Jesus is God's Son and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God Himself, Satan must have felt like God betrayed and demoted him. He must have felt like he lost his "second to God" status, especially since all of Heaven knows that it is Jesus who will sit at God's right side and who will be honored above all beings in Heaven. *(When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, it could be because Satan was jealous of him and wanted to ruin His character.)*

14. That's not all! God also said angels are to recognize human beings *(Those who have faith)* worthy of honor and glory!

15. Before, Satan thought he would always be "second to God", but now, he knows he has to honor God's Triune nature *(Honor Jesus and the Holy Spirit)* and he has to honor human beings. In his mind, he went from being second in command to being at the bottom. Again, he must have felt betrayed and demoted by God.

16. To illustrate what Satan felt about humanity in particular, read this parable that Jesus told:

An owner of a vineyard hired two group of workers: The workers who were hired first and worked a lot of hours, and the workers who were hired second and worked a few hours. The group who had been hired first thought they would be given more pay than the second group. But when the second group were given the same amount of pay as the first, the first group began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. They said, "The second group of workers only worked for a few hours, but you paid them the same amount that you paid us. And we worked all day long! That's not fair!"

The owner responded, "Friends, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?"

17. It was because of Satan's pride of his high status that made him feel like God treated him unjustly. His arrogance had blinded him to God's goodness.

Why Weren't We Born In Heaven?

By. Anthony Coleman

Answer: Because God wants us to choose Him on our terms, not His!

Allow me to explain...

If God chose us on His terms, then we would be with Him in Heaven and we would have a connection with Him, but how would we know our connection to God is genuine? If we were in Heaven, we would be so overwhelmed by God's goodness that we would (*in a way*) have no choice but to accept God. However, a choice requires having different options, but how would we know we genuinely chose to be with God if we only have God's goodness as an option?

I think Satan brought this point up during his rebellion. I think Satan pointed out that it's not fair for human beings to be created in perfect bliss when they probably would reject it if they had the choice to. Our situation on Earth is very similar to the Book of Job. Just like how God allowed Satan to test Job, God is allowing Satan to test humanity. What is the test? To see if humanity will seek & accept God's goodness or ignore & reject God's goodness. Those who seek & accept God's goodness will be with God in Heaven, and those who ignore & reject God's goodness will be separated from God in Hell.

But wait! If God knows everything, then He knew that people would go to Hell. If that's the case, why would He create them in the first place?

That's a good question. Let's break it down...

Hell represents eternal separation from God, but God created humanity to share His goodness for eternity in Heaven. However, God can't (*won't*) force humanity into Heaven. In order for human beings to genuinely choose God, they MUST have the option to reject God. Hell exist for those who choose to reject God.

Jesus (God) said, "But everyone who rejects me and my teachings will be judged on the last day." - John 12:48

But what if people aren't interested in God or being with Him in Heaven? It isn't fair for God to send someone to Hell just because of their preference.

That would make sense if God said something like, "Only those who love vanilla ice cream will go to Heaven", but that isn't the case! As human beings, we are created in God's image (*Genesis 5:1-2*), and we have an absolute purpose to our creation. What is that purpose? To represent God's

goodness! Since God finds ultimate fulfillment in His goodness, we also will find ultimate fulfillment in His goodness as well, since we are created in His image.

Every single human being who has existed, are existing, and will exist were already planned to be created by God. Within all of humanity, there are those who will choose God and reject God. Again, one might ask, "Why would God create people who would reject Him? Couldn't He have just created people who would choose Him?" That's the concept that people don't truly understand. God didn't create humanity to accept Him or reject Him. God created humanity to be free to choose either! That is the only way for a genuine connection of love to exist. The only way to truly love God is when we know for a fact that we don't have to! Every human being will, in some way, have an equal opportunity of accepting God or rejecting God. And yes! It's true that God knows who will accept Him and who will reject Him, but knowing that something will happen IS NOT the same as causing it to happen!

Also, let me say this: It's unfortunate that there's so much evil and suffering in the world, but the evil and suffering in the world doesn't have to (*and isn't meant to*) discourage us or leave us hopeless. The fact that we can call evil and suffering wrong should actually give us hope! Why? Because in order to say something is "wrong", you must believe there's a standard of what's "right". If you believe in a standard of what's right, then you must believe in justice and fairness for all. If you believe in justice and fairness for all, then you must believe that evil and suffering will eventually end. Only God has the authority and power to enact justice and fairness for all, and because evil and suffering exist, we know that He will (*and must*) establish justice and fairness for all! That should be our hope!

Remember, we are in this unjust world because God wants us to choose Him on our terms, not His! If we seek & accept God's goodness while living in this unjust world, then our love for God is genuine. Since we know God's love for us is genuine, of course He wants us to know if our love for Him is genuine as well. That's why we are here on Earth instead of in Heaven. We are here to establish genuine love for God, and if you have that kind of love for God, then you should be able to confidently say:

"I am sure that nothing can separate me from my love for God—not life or death, not trouble, suffering, and hard times, not angels or spirits, not the past, present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate me from my love for God and Christ Jesus our Lord!" (*Inspired by: Romans 8:35,38-39*)

The Atheist's Solution To The Problem Of Evil

By. Anthony Coleman

Normally, the Problem of Evil is the objection that atheists have towards the Christian faith. It goes something like this:

"An All-Powerful & All-Loving God doesn't exist because we live in a world where evil and suffering exist."

(I'm not going to address that objection because I basically did in my first Collection of Essays, "Why Have Faith In God?")

Now, let's assume that atheists are right and God doesn't exist. In that case, what is their solution to the problem of evil? What is their solution to ending all the evil & suffering in the world while bringing justice & fairness to all people throughout all time?

Well, here are some answers that atheists posted on Quora.com to a similar question: *(The question was, "What is the atheist response to the problem of evil?")*

- "The problem of evil in a nutshell is the difference between observable reality and the ego of humanity. Atheist tend to see this and acknowledge reality as we observe it. It's not about having a solution, it's acceptance of observable fact."
- "For an atheist, the indifference of nature and the indifference or selfishness of human nature is sufficient."
- "We just accept how the world is."
- "We will do as much good as we possibly can while accepting that the world is never going to be perfect."
- "Just look at the animal world. Death and destruction are normal, not evil. So, in our world, evil doesn't exist."
- "The problem of evil is not a problem if you are an atheist."

Those answers really bother me because not only do they express a lack of hope in God, but also a lack of hope in love. Without a solution to the problem of evil, then we simply live in a reality where love and evil will always coexist, which is wrong!

Love and evil are not meant to coexist, and I'll prove it! Allow me to ask this question...

Would you describe a marriage to be loving if a husband beats his wife once a week, but treats her to a romantic dinner twice a week? Absolutely not! Why? Because physical abuse (*Or abuse of any kind*) contradicts what love is! A loving marriage cannot tolerate abuse!

So, if we can say that an abusive marriage isn't right because of love, then we can also say that this unjust (*evil*) reality/world isn't right because of love. If that's the case, then there must be a solution!

However, if atheists don't have the solution to ending all the evil & suffering in the world while bringing justice & fairness to all people throughout all time, then Who has (*and is*) the solution?

Now that's the question atheists need to ask!

How Could There Only Be One Truth In Life?

By. Anthony Coleman

Example #1. Let's say vanilla ice cream is my favorite, and then you heard me say, "Vanilla ice cream is right and all other flavors are wrong!" Would that make sense to you? It shouldn't because when it comes to a preference, there is no right or wrong. Vanilla ice cream might be "right" to me, but it's not right to everyone because everyone doesn't like vanilla ice cream. Preferences are subjective truths.

However, there's a difference between a subjective truth and a *objective truth*. A subjective truth is something that's true for an individual, but an objective truth is something that's true for everyone.

Allow me to give another example:

Example #2. If I asked, "Is it right for a husband to cuddle with his wife whenever it rains?" Surely you would say that it's up to the married couple to decide. The question is subjective.

Now, if I asked, "Is it right for a husband to cheat on his wife whenever he feels lonely?" Hopefully you will say no! Why? Because this question explains a situation that violates the *purpose* of marriage! The question is objective.

As we can see, there's a difference between a subjective truth (preference) and an objective truth. Unfortunately, there are many people who believe that all truth is subjective, and that is why so many people aren't able to find/know God.

Allow me to explain...

As human beings, we are free to follow any direction we choose in life.



What are some of those directions we can choose? Well, let's look at a few:

- Atheism
- Buddhism
- Catholicism
- Christianity
- Hedonism
- Hinduism
- Humanism
- Islam
- Jehovah's Witness
- Materialism
- Mormonism
- Mysticism
- Naturalism
- New Age
- Paganism
- Satanism
- Scientology
- Taoism
- Wicca
- Witchcraft

Because we have so many options, many people believe that following a direction in life is subjective. They will say, "Whatever direction someone chooses to follow is simply their preference, and just like how it's wrong to say 'Vanilla ice cream is right and all other flavors are wrong', it's also wrong to say 'This specific direction is right and all other directions are wrong.'"

That seems to make sense, but we have to look a little more closely. Allow me to explain further...

Example #3. Let's talk about a cell phone. With a cell phone, you can do many different things. It could be used as:

- A computer
- A mp3
- A GPS
- A flashlight
- A calculator
- A calendar
- A camera
- Etc.

Now, even with all the things a cell phone can do, what is the specific purpose of a cell phone?
Calls & communication.

But wait! If a cell phone can do many different things, why is it defined by that one specific purpose? Because it was specifically created for the purpose of calling & communicating!

How does this relate to us? If we, as human beings, created ourselves, then we could've created our own specific purpose (*or direction*) for ourselves. However, we didn't create ourselves, which means we have a Creator, and if that's the case, then we have a specific purpose (*or direction*) to our creation!

Because we are created by God, we have a specific purpose/direction for our lives, and because we are created in God's image, we know what that purpose/direction is! (*Which is love!*)

If you reject God, then you reject being created by God, and that means you won't be able to see that one, objective direction. To you, all directions are subjective. You represent Figure #1 below.

If you accept God, then you accept being created by God, and that means you are able to see that one, objective truth (*direction*). To you, all other directions are false. You represent Figure #2 below.

Figure #1

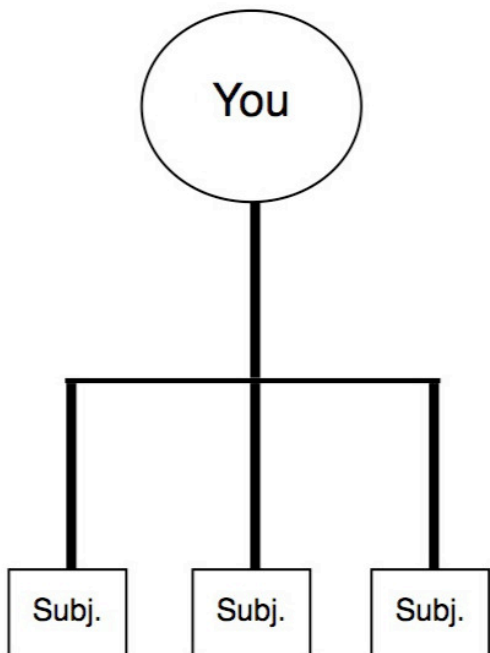
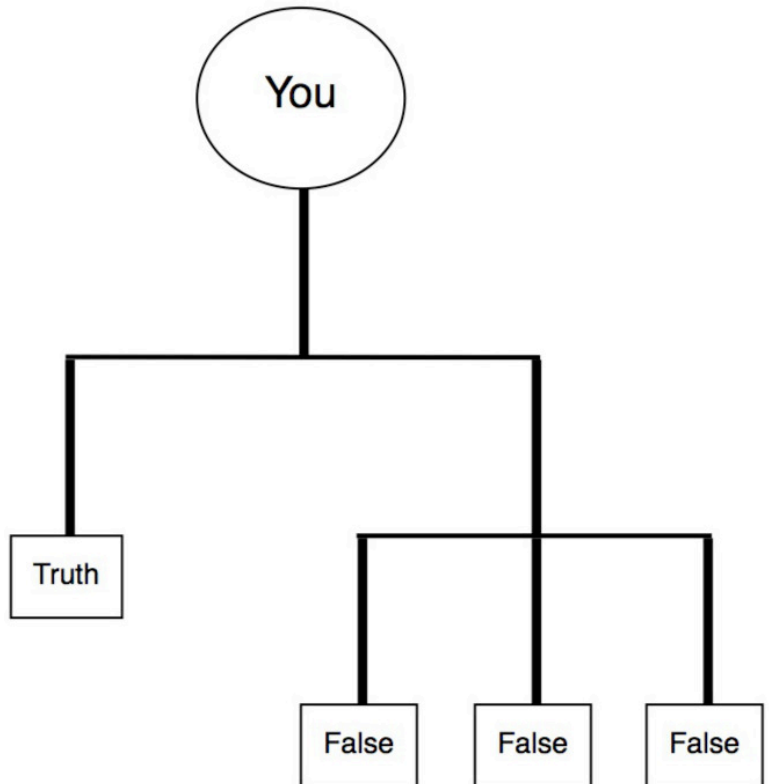


Figure #2



"Jesus (God) said, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.'" - John 14:6

The Sinner And God

By. Anthony Coleman

Sinner- Lord, I am so sorry for all the sins I have committed before You. Please have mercy on me! I know that if I truly understood You, Your mercy, and had faith in You, I would know that I am saved, but I am not so sure. I know that You will forgive me no matter what I do because of Your great, unconditional love, but I just feel like I don't deserve it. I really want to go to Heaven and be with You for eternity, but I just feel like I deserve Hell. I commit sins constantly, even though I know they are wrong and know that I am sinning against You. I really want to stop, but I just keep finding excuses and do them anyway. I don't know what to do.

God- First, I want to say, I love you. I love you with love that you could never imagine. There is nothing you can do to separate My love for you. You were created for the sheer pleasure of being with Me in paradise.

Sinner- But how could You say that so openly and without hesitation? I know You know all the sins I have committed in my life. How could You accept me so easily?

God- Listen. I love you because you are My creation, and I created you to be in a relationship with Me. Why? Because I want to share all that I am with you. And of course I know everything about you. I know all the sins you have committed and will commit, even before I created you, but there is no sin greater than My love for you.

Sinner- How could You love me? I messed up so much! I confess Your name, struggle with embracing Your righteousness, know what I am supposed to do and not supposed to do, but I still mess up and do the things I am not supposed to do.

God- You can only judge yourself based on what you know. Yes, sin is separation from Me, but only I can see if a person has a repentant and remorseful heart. Only I can see if a person really wants forgiveness and wants to be with Me. I see your heart, and that's why I forgive you.

Sinner- But what about the sins I committed? How can I stop committing them?

God- Because of Adam and Eve (*and Satan*), humanity is born into a sinful world. Sin is evil and all have sinned. Sin is what caused humanity to be separated from Me, but it was because of My *Ultimate Sacrifice (Jesus)* that we could be brought back together! On your own, you can't avoid sin because of the influence it has over you, but now that I am with you, you now have the potential to overcome.

Sinner- But I still don't understand. I know I sinned, and I know You know I sinned. Why would You want to be with a sinner like me?

God- I want to be with you because I love you! Your part in our relationship cannot be perfect because you are human and no human is perfect. You cannot be perfect in your part of our relationship, but I can! I know you're not perfect and that is the reason why I express mercy, grace, and forgiveness towards you.

Sinner- I'm starting to understand.

God- I am so glad! However, just because I will forgive, doesn't make it okay to do wrong. Only those who acknowledge their sins, repent of their sins, and want My forgiveness will be forgiven. I'm only able to forgive those who want to be with Me.

Sinner- What about those who don't want to be with You? Do You love them less?

God- Okay. Let's say you're a teacher in a classroom with 10 children. You ask if any of them would like some candy. 5 of the children say yes while the other 5 say no. Now, even though 5 of the children said no, wouldn't you still give candy to them if they changed their minds? My love is here for everyone!

Sinner- But if You love everyone, why do people go to Hell?

God- I'm willing to forgive any type of sin, no matter how bad it is, and save ANY sinner who turns to Me. If sinners don't turn to Me, I won't be able to forgive them of their sins. Unfortunately, without my forgiveness, their sins will lead them to be eternally separated from Me, which is Hell. I really don't want anyone to experience Hell, but everyone must have the freedom to choose. My love is for everyone, but I will not force anyone to be with Me. Love cannot be forced.

Sinner- What about those who never heard about You? Surely they wouldn't go to Hell if they never knew about You, right?

God- You're right, and it's because no one can reject Me without first knowing about Me. I'll make sure all of humanity will know about Me in one way or another. Because My love is for everyone, I'll make sure everyone will have a chance to be with Me!

Sinner- Lord God, You are just too wonderful and filled with so much love for us sinners. Why would anyone want to reject You?

God- There are those who aren't able to see the genuine depth of My love because of their involvement with this unjust world. Many people misrepresent Me because they don't know Me. They think that I am distant and uninvolved, but the truth is, I've been continually trying to inspire all of humanity to seek after Me in order to save them! Sin is a very serious offense and because I am the embodiment of Perfect Love, those who violate love must face justice & judgment. Love and sin cannot and will not coexist forever in this world. Sin will eventually cease to exist and love will prevail exclusively forever!

Sinner- I understand now. All You have done, are doing and will do is to simply save us from this sinful world. That's why You did your *Ultimate Sacrifice (Jesus)*. Instead of allowing sin to leave us hopeless, You have become our Hope! You only want us to be with You for we can experience Your love for eternity in Heaven. It's really that simple! Lord God, thank You so much for everything that You did, are doing, and will do for humanity. Thank You for accepting sinners like me. Please know that I love You!

God- You have absolutely nothing to worry about once you have genuine faith in Me. Keep your focus on Me and I will always be with you, no matter what happens. There's nothing on Earth, in Heaven, in Hell, nothing you can do or anyone else can do that could ever separate My love for you. Just remain faithful and in My eyes, you will be perfect.

Conclusion: My Daily Prayer

By. Anthony Coleman

Lord God,

Thank You for the world so sweet. Thank You for the food we eat. Thank You for the birds that sing. Thank You The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit for absolutely everything.

Thank You Father, for sending Your only begotten Son Jesus.

Thank You Jesus, for doing what You did; dying on the cross for us, forgiving us for our sins and ending our captivity.

Thank You Holy Spirit, for putting Your hands in the dirt, pulling us out, cleansing us off, making us worthy enough to be with You, for reconciling us to God, reconciling us to true love, reconciling us to the perfect relationship with the Trinity, being our Comforter, being our Guide, being with us until the end of time. Thank You The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit for absolutely everything.

Thank You for *Romans 5:8*, "*For You showed Your love for us in this: While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

Thank You for *John 14:6*, "*For You are the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through You.*"

Thank You for *John 3:16*, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but will have everlasting life.*"

Thank You for *James 4:10*, "*Humble yourself before the Lord and He will lift you up.*"

Thank You for *1 John 4:8*, "*If you don't love, then you don't know God because God is love.*"

Thank You for *Galatians 5:16*, "*Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*"

Thank You for *Romans 8:13*, "*Say 'No' to your sinful desires.*"

Thank You for *1 Corinthians 1:28*, "*What the world thinks is worthless, useless, and nothing at all is what God has used to destroy what the world considers important.*"

Thank You The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit for absolutely everything.

Please bless my family, friends, everyone who is suffering, everyone who is going through temptations, everyone who is lost, everyone who is struggling. Let us find truth, peace, love, You, and freedom. Please guide us, please show us Your Wisdom, please show us Your Strength.

Thank You for everything I went through. Thank You for everything I'm going through. Thank You for everything I will go through in my life. (Minus all the negativity I've done.) Let everything happen according to Your Will. Whatever You Will, Your Will will be done. Let us all arrive at the place where we need to be. Let us all fulfill the purpose You created us to fulfill. Please forgive us, even though we don't deserve to be forgiven. Never forsake us, even though we deserve to be forsaken. I love You so much! Thank You for everything.

In the Holy Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Son of God, I rebuke all the spirits, demons, and strongholds that stop us from moving forward. Lord, please guide us, show us Your Wisdom, show us Your Strength.

Lord, please give us exactly what we need in order to do and be exactly what we were meant to do and become.

In Your Holy name I pray: In Jesus name. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

BONUS:

What Is God's View On Abortion?

By. Anthony Coleman

There are two sides to the abortion debate:

1. **Pro-Choice** - Since a fetus can only exist inside a woman's body, the woman should have the right to terminate it because it's her body.
2. **Pro-Life** - If human beings have intrinsic value, then we must value the life of a fetus because no human being can exist without going through the stage of being a fetus. In that case, terminating a fetus should be considered wrong.

What is God's position in this debate? Obviously Pro-Life! God is most definitely against the Pro-Choice position, but not just because abortion terminates new human life. God is mostly against the *heart* behind the Pro-Choice position.

Allow me to explain...

First, God isn't just against abortion. God is also against each act listed below (*Not a complete list*):

- Abortion
- Adultery
- Drunkenness
- Extortion
- Fornication
- Hate
- Murder
- Lies
- Lust
- Rape

- Stealing
- Witchcraft

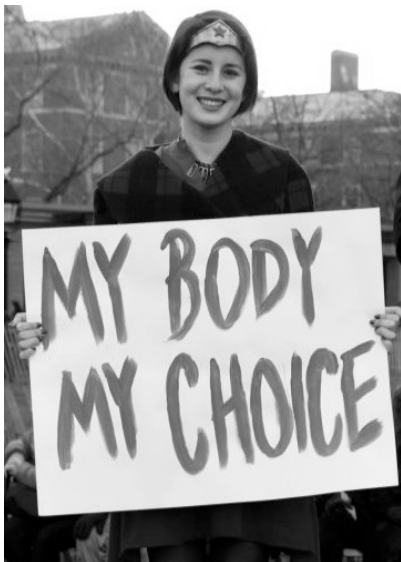
As you can see, abortion is one of many acts that God is against. However, read what Jesus (God) said:

"Jesus said, 'I promise you that any of the sinful things you say or do can be forgiven, no matter how terrible those things are.'" - Mark 3:28

Yes! God is willing to forgive us for committing those acts! However, there are those who commit those acts and actually ignore/reject God's forgiveness. And guess what? Those who are Pro-Choice are some of those who ignore/reject God's forgiveness.

God might be willing to forgive us for committing the act of abortion, but His forgiveness is only possible to those who genuinely want to be forgiven. But wait! How does God know if someone genuinely wants His forgiveness? By seeing if they have a *repentant and remorseful heart!*

I want to ask you a question about two pictures of two different women. Please look below:



Picture #1
A random woman from Google images.



Picture #2
A character from the show
"Orange Is The New Black."

Okay, let's assume both women have had abortions and after a couple years, they had these pictures taken.

In Picture #1, the woman heard of a Pro-Choice rally coming up and decided to go to show her support.

In Picture #2, this is a woman from the show "Orange Is The New Black" and in this scene, the woman was having a small funeral service for the 5 fetuses she aborted. (*In the picture, there are 6 crosses because she had 1 miscarriage.*)

Now, here is my question: Based on the pictures above, which woman demonstrates having a *repentant and remorseful heart*?

The woman in Picture #2! She is the one who is able to receive God's forgiveness! While the woman in Picture #2 expresses humility, pity, and compassion, the woman in Picture #1 expresses self-righteousness, arrogance, and indifference.

But wait! Was I trying to minimize the seriousness of abortion by saying it's no different than any other act against God? Not at all, but I absolutely refuse to think just because I'm a man and I never had an abortion that I'm automatically holy in the sight of God. If I didn't have a *repentant and remorseful heart*, God would've STILL been against me for all the acts I committed against Him. I believe God wants every single woman who have had an abortion to know that they can be forgiven, but only when they have a *repentant and remorseful heart*!

Also, I've heard many debates on abortion and even though I am Pro-Life, I admit that those who argue for Pro-Choice do have good points. We live in an unjust & corrupt world, so when bad things happen to us, we might be left with only a bad choice as a response. (*For example: A 11 year old girl getting raped and ends up pregnant.*) There are situations that are extremely tough to deal with, so I personally cannot fault a woman if she feels like abortion is her only option.

However, if a woman does get an abortion, I want to know her *heart*. Does she feel devastated because she had to terminate her fetus, or is she simply relieved that the fetus is gone? The main problem with the Pro-Choice position is the self-righteous, arrogant, and indifferent *heart* behind it!