

## How To Enter Into A Right Relationship With God

### Introduction:

1. I do not believe that anyone is born an atheist. I believe everyone is born with an innate knowledge that there is a God.
2. That can be suppressed through the philosophy and vain deceit of this world, but most people realize that there is a God. They have a Maker, a Creator.
3. I believe mankind's greatest need is to know that we have a right relationship with God. I need to know that God and I are okay. The Bible word for that is "*reconciliation.*"
  - Guys, do you ever come home to the realization that you and your wife are not okay? You did something that created a barrier. What do you need? You desperately need reconciliation. This means the absence of strife, and now a harmonious relationship can exist.
4. The wonderful news is that God has provided the means for you to have that harmonious relationship with Him. Complete provision has been made. Not only this, God has explained to us how to go about it.
5. How do you enter into a right relationship with God? The Bible leaves us no doubt. It is very simple and very clear.

### First, by admitting your sin and guilt

1. **Illustration:** A husband is abusive to his wife, but he won't see it. He is in denial. They will not enjoy a right relationship until the husband first acknowledges his guilt. That is the first step.
2. The same is true in regards to us and God. To assist us in causing us to see how we have offended God, in the Old Testament God gave "the law." It was over 600 commandments.
  - The law was the perfect expression of righteousness. It was the standard that God required, yet no man could achieve. No normal human being could even keep the "big ten!"
3. So what was God's purpose in giving the law? Romans 3:19-20
  - It was to cause us to see our sin and our guilt, and to reveal to us the truth of Romans 3:10, 23. God has established a righteous standard, and we have all come up short!
4. So what does our human mind reason? We think since nobody can measure up to the standard, God has to negotiate with us. We're accustomed to this, aren't we?
5. Let's make one thing clear. God is **not** a negotiator. The righteousness of God is a right standard, and there is no negotiation. It is set in concrete. It has not changed one bit.
6. It was given for the express purpose of showing us that we have come up short - that we might see our desperate need and admit our sin and our guilt before God. You cannot help someone that doesn't see his need.
7. Are you bad enough to need to be saved by God? This is the trouble for most people. Most of us are so "respectable" that we fail to see the true wickedness of

our hearts. We have been programmed through the process of socialization to behave in a half-decent manner.

8. But, it doesn't change the fact that all have sinned and come short...

### **Second, by acknowledging the total righteousness of Christ**

1. There is a standard of righteousness that God has established that no normal being can achieve. But the standard has been achieved in Christ Jesus. Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22
2. Christ came to this earth, fulfilled the righteousness of the law, and then died. Romans 5:6-8
3. The One who was perfectly righteous... the only One who ever kept the standard... the only One who did not deserve to die, DIED! And the Bible says He died for us. 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18
4. There is a man in heaven, the man Christ Jesus. Because of it, the relationships between God and man can now be reestablished. How does it happen?

### **Third, by placing your faith in the work of Christ**

1. There is an unachievable standard of righteousness that God has established called the law. We've all come up short, but there is a ray of hope. Romans 3:21-22
2. So we can have the righteousness of God by faith... by believing! Romans 3:24
3. We can be declared righteous and acceptable to God through the miracle of justification. Do you realize what it means to be justified by God?
  - It means the righteous standard that God requires has been credited to you, and your falling short of the standard was credited to Christ when He died for your sins.
  - Justification is a free pardon for us, even though we've come up short of the standard.
4. The only condition is that you must believe it has happened. It is all appropriated by faith. Romans 3:25, 26, 28; 5:1
  - Divine righteousness has been manifested in Christ, apart from the law. It is through faith that He gives us His righteousness. Through faith it is credited to your account.
  - The moment you believe on Jesus - you believe that His work is the work that can reconcile you to God - you are placed in Christ.
  - In Christ we are free. In Christ we are seated right next to God in the heavenlies. In Christ this grace is available to all.
5. Righteousness is not in a religion, but in Christ Jesus. I do not speak to you as a Baptist, but as one who is in Christ.
6. Christianity may have a bad record, but Christ has a perfect record. In Christ there is hope, life, forgiveness, reconciliation, and justification.
7. When it comes to a relationship with God, the question is not, "Did you join the church?" "Did you get baptized?" "Are you a good person?" The question is simply, "Are you in Christ?"

**In Conclusion:**

1. You say, “But you don’t know what a mess I’ve made of my life.” No, I don’t. But I do know what Christ has done to undo that mess.
2. But here is the key: you must come clean with God and admit your guilt, admit you’ve come up short of the standard, and then cast yourself on God’s provision.
3. He has done the work. You simply accept it and say, “God, you have provided your Son as my sacrifice and my escape. I believe I am saved and made righteous and acceptable to you through your Son.
4. Your justification was made possible on the cross 2,000 years ago, and you are instantaneously credited with Christ’s righteousness the moment you open up your heart and accept Him.