

## CAN MAN BE SEPARATED FROM GOD?

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Is man separated from God? Has man ever been separated from God? Can man ever be separated from God? From where did this concept come?

We read in Colossians 1:15-17 that ALL things were created BY Jesus Christ and FOR Him, and that all things are held together—sustained—by Him. It should be obvious to us that if all things are sustained or held together by Jesus Christ then if ANYTHING were to be removed from or disconnected in anyway from Him then that thing or individual would not hold together, not be sustained, and therefore no longer exist. Jesus is the source of all existence. Jesus says it this way referring to man in John 14:20, "...I am in my Father, and you are IN me, and I am in you." Connection! Union!

The Apostle Paul addresses this point in Acts 17:28 where he tells the pagan religious leaders in Athens that, "We live and move and have our being IN Jesus." These pagans were looking in all the wrong places to 'find' God who they called the 'Unknown' God. Paul reveals God to them in this truth that they have their life, movement, and being in Jesus.

Romans 8:28-39, Paul is clear that we can not be separated from the love of Christ. That nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

In John 10, Jesus is identified as the Good Shepherd. He says plainly that nothing can take His sheep out of his hand. Psalm 100:3 declares that we—humans—are the sheep of His pasture and that nothing can take us out of his hand.

Some will argue a particular verse, such as Isaiah 59:2, showing that sin SEPARATES man from God and therefore man IS separated from God and must somehow 'get back' to God. Let's understand.

The Old Covenant made at Mt. Sinai was a physical covenant, or agreement, between God and Israel. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 list the conditions of the agreement. Physical blessings would follow obedience to the law and curses would follow disobedience to the law. Israel agreed to the covenant and became married to God through this covenant. (See Jeremiah 3:14; Ezekiel 16; Isaiah 54:5, for a description of the marriage between God and Israel. ) But Israel played 'the harlot' and by violating the agreement was divorced from God. Isaiah 59:2, therefore, is stating that the sins of violating the 'marriage agreement', i.e., the Old Covenant, DID cause a SEPARATION between God and Israel. God removed Himself from the agreement in effect divorcing Israel due to Israel's unfaithfulness.

Ephesians 1:3-14 shows that man was chosen in Christ to be ADOPTED as His sons

(and daughters ) before the creation of the world. Man has ALWAYS belonged to God; belonged to our Father in Heaven. There is NO 'unbelonging' relevant to anyone who has ever lived. Humanity is simply the offspring of God and we belong to God FOREVER. Man's life IS God's life living in us. (Colossians 3:4). There is no life apart from God. There is NO existence of any kind apart or separated from God.

One last scripture we will address is Colossians 1:21. We confuse separation with alienation. This verse says that once we were alienated from God and were enemies in OUR MINDS because of our evil behavior. We are the ones who felt guilty and condemned in our minds. We were alienated in OUR minds. But, God never separated Himself from us. In fact, it is while we were yet sinners that Christ died for us! (Romans 5:8). Colossians 1:22 declares that Christ reconciles us and presents us HOLY in His sight without blemish and free from accusation of any kind.

Separated? ---- NEVER!!!