

JESUS ACCEPTED US INTO HIS LIFE ORIGINALLY

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A common concept in Western Christian doctrine is that humanity is SEPARATED from God and that man must accept Jesus into his life after repenting and that this moves the believer from the state of 'lost' to saved and 'unseparates' him from God.

Often a verse such as Colossians 1:21 is used to show this separation. But is this actually the case? Is man lost until he 'accepts' Jesus into his life? Is man 'made right' with God when he—man—believes that Jesus died for his sins by shedding His blood? In other words, is the salvation of humans left up to their 'making' it happen by what they do or don't do, believe or don't believe? Who is the author and finisher or perfecter of man's faith anyway?

Before we go further in this, let's look at Colossians 1:21 and see what it really says. "Once you were "ApallotrioO" in the Greek. It means 'estranged' or 'alienated' in our language. It does not mean separated and can not mean separated here. Acts 17:28 says that mankind lives, moves, and has his being in Jesus Christ. If one were to be separated from Jesus totally, he or she would cease to exist at all!!!

This kind of thinking is really backwards. The truth is that Jesus from before the creation of the world ADOPTED humans into the life and family of God, INCLUDED man into the life of God, REDEEMED, RECONCILED, SAVED HUMANITY and ACCEPTED man INTO His life originally. This is the starting point. See Ephesians 1:3-14.

Adam side-tracked the plan of God by sinning and introducing sin into man's world. That sin brought death on all humans. (I Corinthians 15:22). With Jesus' perfect ATONING sacrifice, man was forgiven all of his sins and made alive with Christ and declared to be RIGHTEOUS through Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:18-20)

In reality, Adam LOST the human race by sinning. But the Good News is that Jesus Christ came to 'seek and to save WHAT WAS LOST!!! (Luke 19:10) Jesus came and accomplished what He set out to do by becoming the 'Propitiation' for the sins of ALL THE WORLD (I Jn.2:2). No one escapes the 'Propitiatory' act of Jesus' saving work. Absolutely NO ONE!

When we use terminology such as 'one must accept Jesus into our life', what we really should be saying is acknowledging that Jesus has already accepted us into His life from the beginning and that we NOW have come to believe this FACT of ADOPTION AND INCLUSION AND SALVATION. We need to keep the "horse before the cart"—so to speak.

Sin has done a serious detrimental number on mankind. Sin has brought untold suffering, misery and pain on humanity. Through sin we have alienated and estranged ourselves from God—but we have NOT SEPARATED ourselves from Him. We have broken fellowship with Him. But we have never broken our RELATIONSHIP with Him. We are His Children—FOREVER. He is our FATHER forever.

Our Triune God has always purposed to have us in His life forever and He in our life forever as well (John 14:20; John 17:20-26). All the plans and preparations were designed by our God ORIGINALLY since before anything was ever created in the first place.

God's FINISHED PLAN does not depend on the puny efforts of weak, sinful, puny, mortal, human beings. It all depended on and depends on JESUS CHRIST. And He finished it (John.30:19). "IT IS FINISHED!"

The problem most of us have in explaining all of this comes from past misunderstandings stemming from wrong Western Christian theological errors which have focused on the cross only and atonement.

God is not mad at ANYBODY. God LOVES everyone; YOU, too. God is not OUT TO GET anyone. God is not out to condemn anyone. God's plan has been perfect from the beginning in ETERNALLY SHARING HIS LIFE WITH HUMANITY. He wanted it to work. Imagine that!!! And the GOOD NEWS is that He HAS MADE IT WORK in, by, and through JESUS CHRIST's life, death, resurrection and ascension.

AMEN