

God Chat

1- FREE TO CAUSE A MESS

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these Friday nights we will present glimpses of evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

1) WHOSE GOD ARE WE CHATTING ABOUT? DOES HE BELONG TO A SPECIFIC RELIGION?

A. God is everyone's God. No exclusions. Much like parents don't stop counting the disobedient child as part of the family, God is the same way.

B. Polemos (Politics)

REVELATION 12:7-12 - Then war broke out in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; but the dragon was defeated. And he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. The huge dragon was thrown out - that ancient serpent, named the Devil, or Satan (the opponent; the adversary), that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now God's salvation has come! Now God has shown his power as King. Now his Messiah has shown his authority. For the one who stood before our God and accused our brothers day and night has been thrown out of heaven. Our brothers won the victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the truth which they proclaimed; and they were willing to give up their lives and die. And so be glad. You heavens and all you that live there! But how terrible for the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, and he is filled with rage, because he knows that he has only a little time left... (TEV)

2) WHAT HAPPENED IN HEAVEN FOR THAT PEACE WE ASPIRE FOR TO BE BROKEN?

DEUTERONOMY 32:51 - You broke faith (trust) with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, because you did not keep my name holy among the children of Israel." NASB; BBE

ISAIAH 14:12-14 - How you are fallen from heaven, o Day Star (Lucifer), son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God. I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High"... (RSV)

notes:

MATTHEW 4:8-11 - Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! for it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" ... Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him. (RSV)

3) IS IT UNBELIEVABLE TO YOU THAT A CREATURE WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED, REVERED, AND WORSHIPPED AS THE CREATOR? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT CAN HAPPEN?

GENESIS 3:1-5 - Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman. "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it our eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (RSV)

The consequence of the war and of Adam and Eve believing Satan's accusations is that we are all caught up in the war and its consequences.

4) WHY DID GOD ALLOW SATAN TO HAVE HIS SAY? TO PRESENT HIS SIDE OF THE STORY? WHY NOT AVOID THE WHOLE THING AND SHUT SATAN UP? DESTROY HIM?

A. *The battle is over God's character. It's over His form of government and over the desire that Satan had to overthrow his Creator.*

B. *God will not use force, coercion to prove His point; he will wait to show His character using only love.*

C. *The Bible says He wins the war. The full revelation of who God is in the person of Jesus Christ. The cross and the resurrection were the final proof about whether God is a selfish liar or is indeed love. That is precisely when God won the argument against Satan.*

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. (RSV)

"For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's death on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven." (TEV)

EPHESIANS 1:9-10 - For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (RSV)

notes:

EPHESIANS 3:9-10 - ... and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (RSV)

5) IF CHRIST'S LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION REVEALED TO THE ANGELS AND THE UNIVERSE THAT GOD WON, HOW COME WE ARE STILL HERE IN THIS MESS?

1 CORINTHIANS 4:9 ... we have become a spectacle (theater) to the world, to angels and to men. (RSV)

6) IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST, WHAT IS THE CROSS SAYING? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT?

The good news about God and what He has done for us takes on greater significance, for it's not about my personal fate only, but it's evidence, substance for the way God has dealt with the whole universe, angels and man. The most important belief of any Christian has to be the truth about God. If we do not dispel the lies that have been told about Him, we cannot see Him or trust Him. We will fear Him, rebel against Him, feel disgust and lose our individuality becoming slaves to the lies.

7) TO THINK: CAN WE BE SURE THAT GOD IS JUST LIKE JESUS?

Learn more about Satan and the one third of angels who fell with him: Job 1 and 2; Zechariah 3: 1,2; Mark 25:41; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 6.

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