

A Biblical View of Humankind

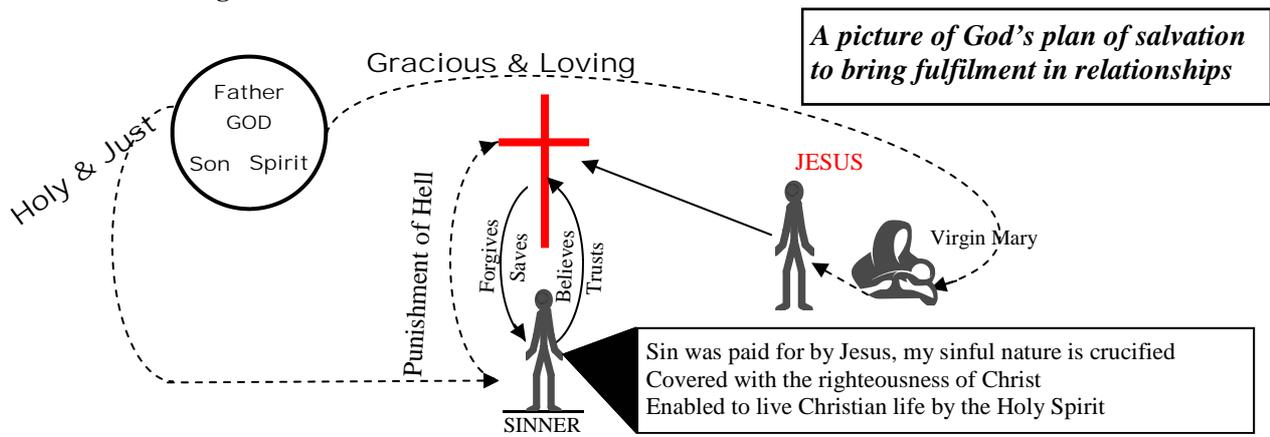
Humankind, in contrast with the rest of the animal kingdom, is in a personal relationship with the true and living God. The Bible states that people were made in image of God, that is in his likeness, with the ability to think, experience and express emotion, discover the marvel of God's creation, and express the concept of worship.

People have a **unique relationship** not only with God, but also with other people. While it is true that animals have relationships, the human relationships are far superior. There are relationships in the immediate family, the extended family, the community and with fellow citizens throughout the world.

From the beginning of creation God created people as **male and female**, with the plan to have them marry and have children to propagate the human race. It is true that various people down through the ages, because of a broken condition brought about by breaking the original relationship with their Creator, have entered into various sexual relationships other than the male and female relationship in marriage.

Evolutionists quite often say that progress has been made in the human race since the appearance of the earliest human beings in the evolutionary process. So any problem was due to a lack of education and could be changed by human effort. But the Biblical teaching is that the first human beings were very intelligent, in meaningful relationship with their Creator and fellow human beings. Then under God's sovereign control, evidently allowed for his purpose and glory, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command, which brought about a **break in the relationship with their Creator and with each other**. The Bible teaches that this inclination to sin has been passed on to all generations since that time.

God instituted his eternal plan to save even those who had disobeyed his loving command. This was first illustrated with the slaying of animals, shedding their blood, and using the skins to cover Adam and Eve, symbolizing that an "innocent's" life was given to cover the guilty. Later God instituted through Moses the Passover, where a lamb was slain, and its blood was applied to the entrance of the Jewish house, stating that an "**innocent**" shed its blood to suffer in behalf of the guilty. The ultimate Lamb, the Messiah/Christ, was promised from the beginning. God took to himself a human body through the virgin Mary, who was engaged to and then married Joseph, and was born as the God-man. This God-man, Jesus, proved his divinity through his life, words, miracles and love for people. He allowed himself to be arrested, turned over to the Romans, and was nailed to a cross. **Jesus suffered the punishment of hell for people by dying and offering his blood as a sacrifice for sin, arose from the dead to give eternal life to all who confess their sinful natures and trust him as Saviour and Lord.**



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An illustration of a Biblical view of people in various relationships

GOD-GIVEN RELATIONSHIPS

(Meaningful and satisfying human relationships for all humankind, but especially meaningful for Christians).

generations	grand-parents	singles	Parents & children	neighbourhood	church	government	work	heaven
respect	respect	care	father mother	support	give self to God	submit	honesty	by grace
take care	provide for	accept	father: sacrificial love	love	worship	respect	diligence	trust Jesus
			mother: willing submission	help	study Bible	pay taxes	earn	tell others
			children: honour and obey		fellowship	vote	have (own)	missions
			Bible, prayer, example		tithe/ offering	serve	give	local-world

People who trust Jesus as Saviour and Lord will receive the Holy Spirit, who will enable them to have the ability to have genuine love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control to serve God, their Creator and Saviour, and others.