



BIBLE ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

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Accommodation and Adaptation or Discord and Dissension?

The Post-Modern culture that the Western world has dressed itself in over the last few decades has put a high priority on harmony. The prevailing idea today is that truth is not the same for everybody as each person is responsible for determining their own truth, whatever that might be. In order to achieve harmony among the populace of the earth then, it is said, that each person must accommodate, or make room for, whatever any other person declares to be true for them and adapt it as part of their own truth. This approach to determining what is truth, or reality, leads to a path of a constantly shifting set of ethical, moral, and spiritual values. This really isn't anything new, though, as this view of truth has been the mainstay of human philosophy since Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. What we want to consider here is how this concept of truth is affecting the church today.

Whatever concepts of the world system that are being emphasized at any given time soon show up in the church. The idea of relative truth that is driving the Post-Modern culture of today is manifesting itself in at least what is claiming to be the church. Just as truth has been marginalized in our current culture, Bible doctrine is now being discounted from many pulpits in America. When this happens, the importance of standing for what the Bible actually teaches gets lost in the shuffle and emotionalism, personal opinion, and human wisdom replaces Bible doctrine as the standard

for determining what is actually true for faith and practice and what is not. Those who count themselves as Bible believing Christians and are outspoken in regard to what the Bible teaches and the exclusiveness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are labeled as intolerant, narrow-minded, contentious, and divisive and are ridiculed, not only by the world, but often by those who claim to be Christians. They cry out "Let us put all our differences aside and come together in religious harmony." "After all," they claim, "we all worship the same God." This claim simply isn't true, at least not of Bible believing Christians.

It is true that all who **have not** been made alive through faith in Jesus Christ and the redeeming power of His blood (Eph. 1:7, 12-14; 2:1, 4-6, 8-9) are under the influence of Satan, who is "*the god of this world*" (II Cor. 4:4) and "*the prince and the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience*" (Eph. 2:2-3). But, those who are "in Christ" have been delivered "*from the power of darkness*" and transferred by God "*into the kingdom of His dear Son*" (Col. 1:12-14). This being so, believers who worship the True God are not to be aligned in any way with the works of darkness, but are to "*walk as children of light*" (Eph. 5:8). In his warning to the Corinthians against participating in the worship of the false gods of idolatry with their pagan neighbors, Paul rhetorically asks "*and what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*" (II Cor. 6:15). The simple answer is that there is none; not with the idol worship of Paul's day or the relativism and ecumenicalism of today.

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"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." II Timothy 3:16



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Believers are not to accommodate or adopt any teachings, philosophies, or concepts that are contrary to Bible truth and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To do so is to help in perverting the Gospel by allowing its truth to be mingled with untruth. To take a stand for the truth, one must stand against error. This does not cause discord, but reveals the discord that already exists. The world, the flesh, and the Devil are in one accord against God (see I Joh. 2:15-16; Joh. 14:30; Gal. 5:16-17; Joh. 14:30; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2-3; 6:11-12). There is no and can be no harmony between them and God. To declare to the world that absolute truth does exist and that truth is found in the Person of Jesus Christ is to say to the world, "there is discord between us" and "we offer a dissenting view of the condition and need of the world system." For the true Church, the Body of Christ, to be effective in proclaiming the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, it must not try to accommodate and adopt the ways of the world in order to forge an artificial peace. It must embrace the fact that, as God's people, we are in a state of complete discordance and dissonance with the world and boldly proclaim the truth of the Cross in love to a world of lost sinners. The truth is that they all have sinned and are fallen far short of the glory of God, whether they like to hear it or not. The exclusiveness of Jesus Christ's offer of salvation is their only hope. Let's be bold enough to tell them.

Because Christ Lives!

W. Edward Bedore

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Editor
BBI Bulletin, BABQ

(All questions answered by the Editor unless otherwise noted)

QUESTION: If God is omniscient and omnipresent and cannot be in the presence of evil, then how can He be everywhere all at once in this wicked world?

ANSWER: First of all, that God exists is evident from the very existence of the creation (Ps. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:18-20). That the Creator is a Holy God is stated clearly many times in Scripture and is evident by the fact that the natural man understands that there is a right and wrong and makes rules, laws and ordinances and accuses and excuses each other in accordance with them (Rom. 2:14-15). Man's natural perception of right and wrong is generally warped and twisted because of sin, but it is enough to convict him of the evil he does (Rom. 2:16).

The Scriptures do not teach that God is unaware of sin or completely isolated from it. This is obvious because, in the Bible, we find the Lord God of creation entering the Garden of Eden to confront Adam, Eve, and the serpent for their sin (Gen. 3:9-19). At the same time, the Bible teaches us that God is absolutely holy and that He hates sin, will not tolerate sin, will judge sinners, and will one day do away with sin. Yet sin is present with us and seems to continue unabated in the world. How are we to understand this?

Part of our problem is that we have a really hard time comprehending what being omnipresent is like. In fact, because we are not omnipresent beings, we cannot fully grasp what omnipresence is. This is because our experience in being is limited to our personal presence, while God is unlimited in His state of Being and Presence.

Nevertheless, at least part of the answer is found in the longsuffering of God. He is not only holy and just, but He is also loving and gracious. Along with this combination of attributes, another characteristic of God is manifested, His forbearance, or patience.

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Forbearance means to bear with, or to have patience with, to be longsuffering. The forbearance of God speaks of His goodness and graciousness in exercising patience while enduring the persistent, obstinate, self-willed stubborn rebelliousness and wickedness of sinners; and this while tirelessly calling them to turn to Him for forgiveness and reconciliation rather than immediately bringing the judgment deserved on them (see Rom. 2:4; 3:23-26). God is allowing sin to continue in the world because of His desire for men and women to be saved and to come into a personal relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ. He has demonstrated His great love for Adam's fallen race in that *"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8). However, this does not mean that evil will be allowed to continue forever as God will finally judge all of the lost who will suffer the everlasting torment of outer darkness in the Lake of Fire (Matt. 25:30, 41; Rev. 20:11-15). This shows that one day evil will be no more, but it does not answer the question at hand. So, we will look at another aspect of a Holy God's omnipresence and the presence of evil. But, before we do, we want to say that sin and evil are not things that can be packaged in a box. No, sin is the inclination of the human heart towards selfish desires of pride and self-exaltation that results in the commission of evil acts, or sins. Sin and evil reside in the hearts of men and women. Sins are the fruit of sin.

The Bible tells us that God in His full glory is unapproachable by man in his natural state of existence. Speaking of the future manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Church in His unabated heavenly glory, we read: *"Who only hath immortality dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen"* (I Tim. 6:16). When Moses asked that the Lord to show him His glory (Ex. 33:18), He answered, *"thou canst not see My face: for there shall no man see Me and live"* (Ex. 33:20). In other words, no

human being can come into the fullness of God's presence in his natural body and survive. God's glory is a manifestation of His inherent attributes which include His goodness, His holiness, His righteousness, and His justice, all of which are absolute in perfection. The full display of the Glory of God would immediately overwhelm and destroy any and all sinful flesh that its brightness would shine on. That is why believers will receive new and glorified bodies of incorruption at the Rapture (I Cor. 15:50-54; Phil. 3:20-21). It is not so much that God cannot have evil come into His presence, but that evil cannot exist in the full presence of His glory.

What we see from this is that while the Bible teaches that God is omnipresent, or present everywhere, the manifestation, or perhaps we might say the intensity of His presence, is not the same in all places everywhere at the same time. How do we understand this? We cannot fully comprehend it nor are we able to explain it. What we can do and need to do is to acknowledge that it is what Scripture teaches and accept it by faith as truth based on the infallibility of God's Holy Word.

QUESTION: Why did God create mankind in the first place if He knew that we would fail?

ANSWER: God created man for the purpose of fellowship and to bestow great blessings of honor and glory on Him. He created the Heavens and the Earth with a special future role for man in both of these realms. His kingdom on earth is the subject of Prophecy and His reign in the heavenlies is the subject of the Mystery. God's desire is that both of these domains be filled with human beings that He can love and share His glory with (Rom. 9:4; Col. 1:27). In His loving care for mankind, God made it possible for every member of Adam's fallen race to live eternally with Him in spite of the sin that has alienated man from God. *"But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Rom. 5:8).

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While God knew when He purposed to create man that a vast number would turn away from Him in unbelief and be lost, He also knew that there would be many who would respond in belief and be saved into eternal life and an everlasting relationship with Him. In His infinite wisdom as the Sovereign of the universe, God chose to create man and gave him a choice of believing the truth He would reveal to him or to reject it. For man to have a truly personal relationship with God, he had to have the personal capacity to choose. Otherwise he would be an impersonal being rather than the personal being that God created him to be. This, of course, allowed for the entrance of evil into the Creation. Those who end up in the Lake of Fire will only have themselves to blame.

QUESTION FOR THE READER: WHO AM I?

I was born with twelve fingers and twelve toes. I am the son of a famous person in the Bible. Who am I?

Answer to the September Who Am I Question for the Reader:
SETH (See Gen. 2:21-23; 4:1-2,8,25). (My oldest brother murdered my second brother, and my mother had no mother. Who am I?)

INTERESTING BIBLE FACTS

"In America, But Not In English"

The first European language Bible printed in America was an edition of Martin Luther's German Bible in 1745 by a Pennsylvanian

named Christopher Sauer. The British law that required all English language Bibles be printed in England did not affect the publishing of Bibles in German.

"Bibles From Boston"

Only Bibles printed in England were allowed to be distributed in the American Colonies. About 1750, the Boston printing companies of Rogers & Fowle and Kneeland & Green illegally printed King James Version Bibles with a London imprint.

COMMON SAYINGS FROM THE BIBLE

"See Eye-to-Eye"

To see eye-to-eye with someone means to be of the same mind; to be in agreement with them. To not see eye-to-eye is to be in disagreement. The phrase comes from the prophecy of Isaiah who wrote, *"thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion"* (Isa. 52:8). In this passage, the prophet was looking beyond the suffering of the promised Messiah to His glorious Second Coming at the end of the Tribulation to restore David's throne in Jerusalem. All of the watchman of Israel will see eye-to-eye in their recognition, understanding, praise, and proclamation of the Person and blessings of Messiah in that day. There will no longer be any disunity among the Children of Israel, but they will be in complete unity in the reign of Jesus Christ during the Millennial Kingdom and beyond.

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