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SERIES BOOKLET  
DONELSON FIRST

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## PART 1

# TRUTH MATTERS

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6



Truth matters because it is the foundation for everything in which I place my trust.

### DEFINE

truth (Greek) = aletheia  
aletheia = to convey truth or to convey the right way

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### THE REALITY:

Once I discover truth, I align my life to truth.

I then exercise faith as I live my life in truth.

I realize that once discovered, truth never comes to an end...

Instead, the thrill of the Christian faith only escalates.

### AS I INTERPRET THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

1. I am in error of the Holy Scriptures.
2. I may not interpret the Holy Scriptures as do you.
3. The core beliefs of the Christian faith leave no room for dispute.

## PART 2

# THE ORIGIN OF ORTHODOXY

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
John 8:31-32



### TRUTH IS NOT SIMPLY:

Whatever works.  
What makes others feel  
good.  
The majority.  
Just a belief.

## DEFINE

Orthodoxy =  
The foundational truths that define  
the Christian faith.

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## REASONS FOR AMERICA'S DISINTEREST IN TRUTH:

1. We are inundated with information (and disinformation).
2. We desire an escape.
3. We have an ever-declining biblical moral landscape.
4. We, the Church, have failed.
5. We, as Christians, are viewed as suspicious.

## HOW THE CHURCH CAN RESPOND TO THE EVER- SHIFTING WORLD:

1. Ignore.
2. Shift.
3. Return to orthodoxy.

## ORTHODOXY IS:

1. The foundation that defines my Christian faith.
2. Confirmed by Jesus as the most important commandment of the Christian faith.
3. Timeless from generation to generation.
4. Beneficial to my life and legacy.

## PART 3

# THE PURSUIT OF ORTHODOXY

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1



The burden is on me to know these truths of Orthodoxy.

Not to condemn me, but to change me.

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### CONSIDER

As a Christian, I am to be a:  
Truth seeker.  
Truth protector.

### THE REALITY:

1. Orthodoxy is worth the pursuit.
2. Orthodoxy is not "my truth."
3. The truth boundaries help to better reveal heresy.
4. Truth is attractive.
5. The burden is on me to know Orthodoxy.
6. Heresy requires the Christian to defend the truth.

### DEFENDING ORTHODOXY IS PROCLAIMING:

1. I am guilty as a sinner and deserve an eternal separation from God.
2. Jesus, both fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life while on earth.
3. Jesus died and was resurrected.
4. Jesus offers me a second chance through a personal relationship with Him.
5. If I believe in Him and choose to give my life to Him, Jesus saves me and offers me eternity with Him in heaven.

# **THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



Everything there is to learn about God I can learn as I spend time in His Word.

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## **CONSIDER**

When it comes to historical evidence, writings less than 200 years after an event takes place are considered to be overwhelmingly reliable. The entire New Testament was written within 100 years of the death of Jesus Christ.

## **INTERNAL EVIDENCE:**

**Prophecy in Genesis 3:15 is fulfilled in Matthew 1:18:**

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

**This prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:15 is fulfilled in John 6:14:**

After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

## **EXTERNAL EVIDENCE:**

**Pool of Siloam:** John 9:1-7

**Tel Dan Stela** proved that King David was a real person, he reigned as King of Israel, and he was the founder of the kingdom of Judah.

**Dead Sea Scrolls:** Comprise a vast collection of Jewish documents written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. They include manuscripts or fragments of every book in the Hebrew Bible except the Book of Esther, all of them created nearly one thousand years earlier than any previously known biblical manuscripts.

# **COMPONENTS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

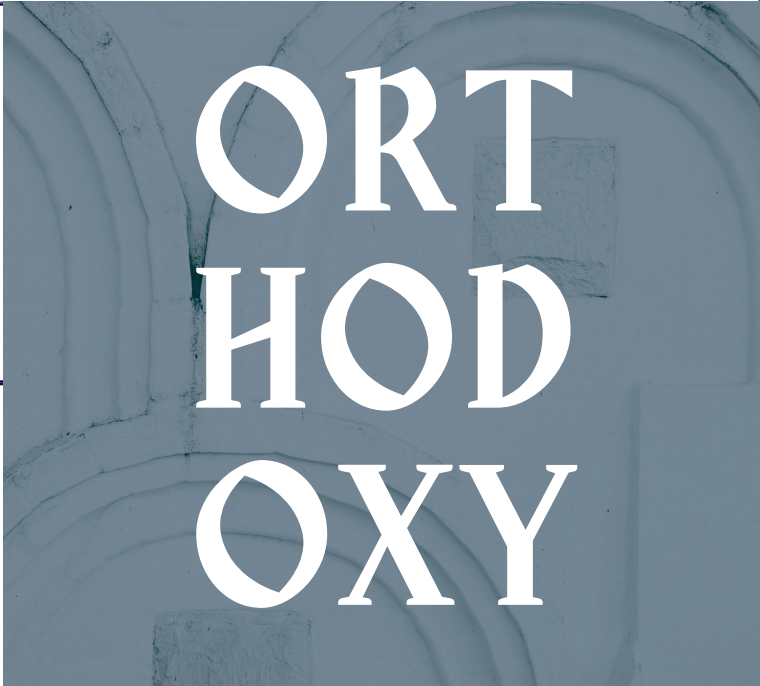
All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17



To hear the words of God is to hear divine authority.

To ignore the words of God is to disbelieve God and to sin.



## **CONSIDER**

God's words delivered through the voice of one He ordains are just as authoritative and just as true as words from the very mouth of God.

## **THE WORD OF GOD IS:**

1. The person of Jesus Christ (John 1:1, John 1:14, Revelation 19:11-13).
2. A decree by God. (Genesis 1:3, Genesis 1:6, Genesis 1:9, Genesis 1:11).
3. Intimate communication w/God (Matthew 3:16-17).
4. The voice of God's ordained (Deuteronomy 18:18-20, Jeremiah 1:6-10).
5. Written by the hand of God (Exodus 31:18, Isaiah 30:8, Jeremiah 30:2).

## **THE SUBTLE IRREVERENCES TO GOD'S WORD:**

1. Not making time in the Word a priority in my life.
2. Hearing, but not accepting, what the Word says.
3. Applying to my life only aspects of the Word that make sense to me, are easy, or viewed as culture cool.
4. Only reading the Word when in need.
5. An act of blatant disobedience to the Word.

# ULTIMATE AUTHORITY

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.  
John 17:17



Ultimate authority, though often perceived as restrictive, in actuality is ultimate freedom.

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## CONSIDER

If we do not have an ultimate authority that never changes, never sways, and never caves to criticism and critique, then what is truth? If truth can change as culture demands change, then truth is nothing more than an appeasing of our desires.

## JESUS SAYS WHAT GOD ALREADY SAID:

1. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4: Jesus answered, It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. God already said in Deuteronomy 8:3: He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.
2. Jesus said in Matthew 4:10: Jesus said to him, Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only. God already said in Deuteronomy 6:13: Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.

## BECAUSE GOD'S WORD IS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY:

1. It is impossible for Him to lie.
2. There is no truth that will trump God's truth.
3. Biblical Orthodoxy principles are timeless and necessary for my life.



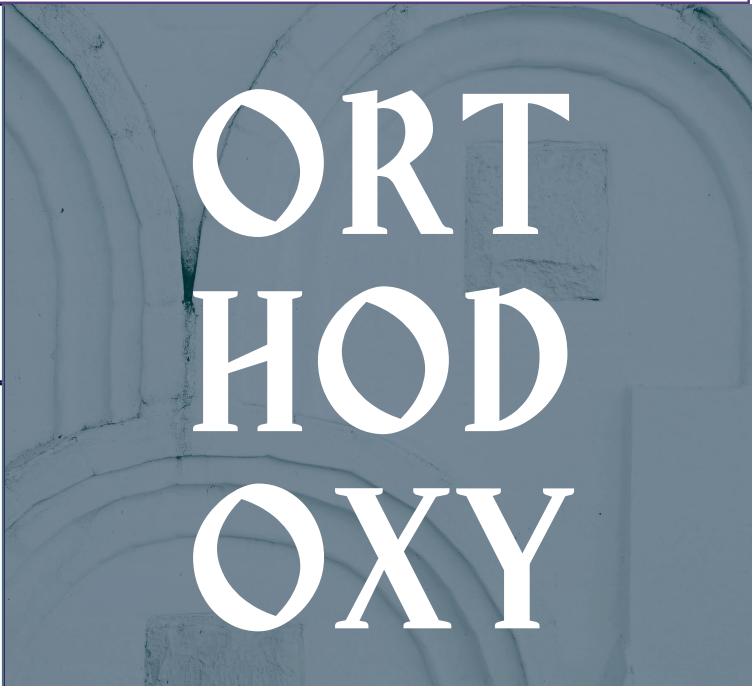
# **GOD IS THE ONE HOLY GOD**

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.

1 Peter 1:8



At the time in history when God chooses to make known His people and to begin the story of redemption for His people, He too becomes the God intimately known to His people as YHWH.



## **DEFINE**

“The Lord” /Hebrew/  
= YHWH

YHWH is the intimate name God reveals to His people by which He is to be addressed.

## **3 TRUTHS ABOUT THE HOLY GOD YHWH:**

1. YHWH must reveal Himself to me.
2. YHWH cannot fully be understood.
3. YHWH cannot fully be understood, but He can be intimately known.

## **HUMANITIES ACTIONS TO DENY THE DEEP, INNER SENSE THAT A HOLY GOD EXISTS:**

In Romans 1:23: “exchanged”

In Romans 1:27: “abandoned”

In Romans 1:24: “degraded”

In Romans 1:28: “do”

In Romans 1:25: “exchanged”

In Romans 1:32: “approved”

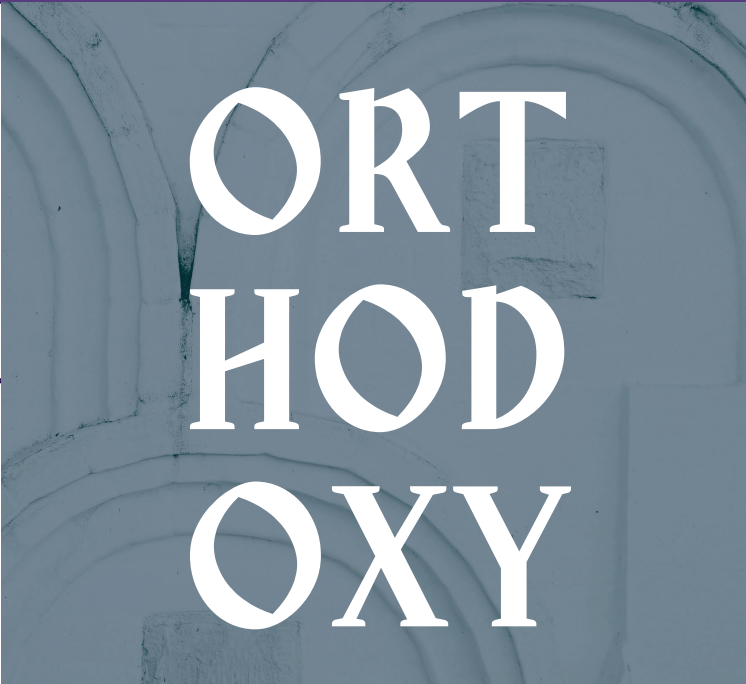
# **GOD IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.  
Genesis 1:1



When I know truth, I can discover lies.

The discovery of truth easily helps me put to rest any falsehood which contradicts truth.



## **DEFINE**

In the beginning (Hebrew)  
= out of nothing

Formless (Hebrew)  
= empty; confusion; waste

## **I CAN BE CERTAIN OF THIS ABOUT CREATION:**

1. God did not tell me everything about Creation.
2. God did tell me exactly what He desires I know about Creation.
3. I should trust what I don't know to lead me to want to know more rather than lead me to doubt more.

## **HUMANITIES ACTIONS TO DENY THE DEEP, INNER SENSE THAT A HOLY GOD EXISTS:**

1. God created everything (Psalm 33:6, 9).
2. God created everything from nothing (Genesis 1:1-2).
3. God created everything from nothing and made it complete (Hebrews 11:3).

## PART 9

### FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #4

# ALL OF HUMANITY IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING GOD GLORY

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:26-28



I am God's very best creation... because I am created in His image and likeness.

## DEFINE

image /Hebrew/  
= closely alike; reflection of.

likeness /Hebrew/  
= closely alike; reflection of.

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE?

1. I am created as God's very best creation.
2. I am created like God.
3. I am created with the ability to do what is right.

## I BRING GOD GLORY WHEN:

- I realize He doesn't need me.
- I realize He delights in me (Isaiah 62:3-5).
- I allow Him to define my purpose (John 10:10b).
- I live as He created me to live (Genesis 2:7).

## ALL OF HUMANITY IS CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD FOR THE PURPOSE OF BRINGING GOD GLORY

The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Genesis 2:23-24



The family, as defined and ordained by God as the foundational institution of humanity, is under attack.

### DEFINE

To define /English/  
= a definite statement of specification

To ordain /English/  
= a holy decree

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## GOD DEFINED AND ORDAINED THE FAMILY WHEN HE CREATED:

Humanity as man (Genesis 5:1-2)

Man to not live alone (Genesis 2:18, 20b, 24)

Woman as the suitable helper (Genesis 2:20b-22)

## THE BATTLE OF GENDER BEGAN IN THE GARDEN:

When Satan approached Eve rather than Adam (Genesis 3:1-6a), Satan introduced a role reversal between the gender institution of man and woman.

Ever since, there has been an ever-increasing culture of confusion over genders and, specifically, the roles of man and woman in the home, with relationships, and throughout society.

**THE FAMILY IS DEFINED AND ORDAINED BY GOD AS THE FOUNDATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HUMANITY.**

Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

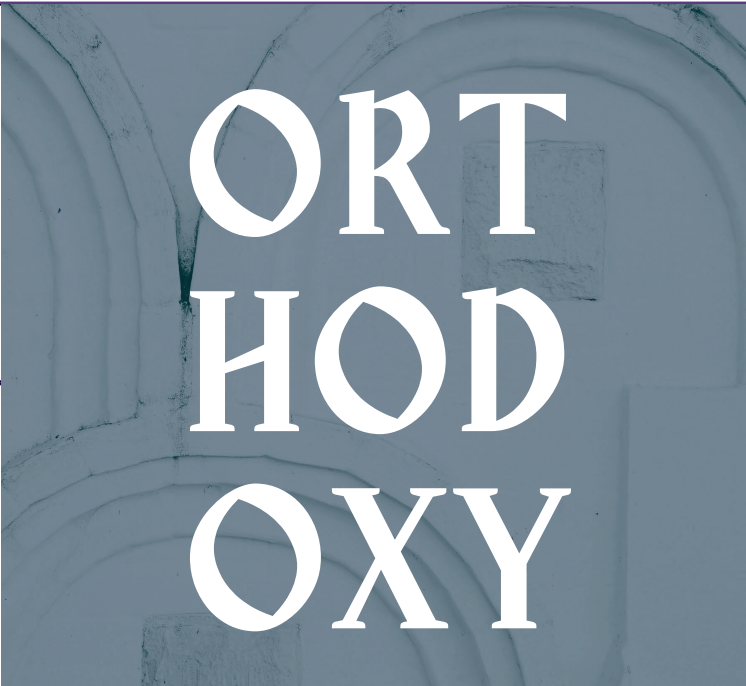
1 Timothy 5:8



God reveals humanities dilemma and then offers the solution.

The dilemma: Loneliness

The solution: Family



**DEFINE**

Commandments /Hebrew/ dabar, noun = the entirety or the whole of these words

**TALKING IT OUT AS A FAMILY:**

1. Who are we as a family?
2. What defines us?
3. What is unique about us?
4. What can we do better as a family?

**AS AN ORTHODOXY-LED FAMILY:**

I declare God’s Word is the authoritative truth for my family.

I celebrate my family.

I am committed to holiness in my marriage.

I will fight for my child.

I will commit to placing Jesus before my family and my family before me.

# JESUS CHRIST IS ORTHODOXY

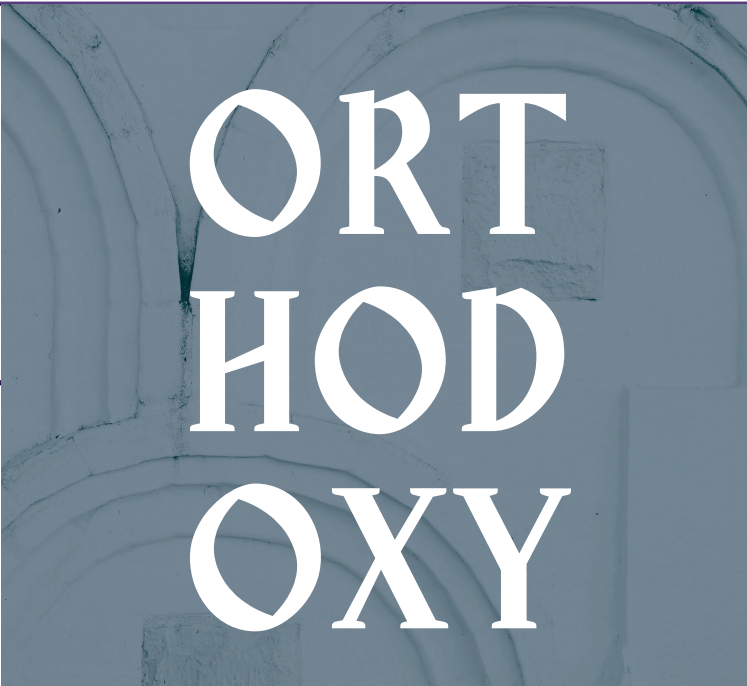
**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #6 : JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD**

**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #7: JESUS CHRIST WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #8: THE PENALTY FOR HUMANITY'S SINS IS ETERNAL DEATH**



You cannot have  
Orthodoxy  
without Jesus.  
because  
Jesus is Orthodoxy.



## DEFINE

Sin  
= My failure to do what God says is right.

His dwelling /Greek/ skenoo en  
= to pitch a tent

## SCRIPTURE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IN THE BEGINNING:

Jesus was there with God.

Jesus was God.

All things were made by means of Jesus.

Nothing could have been made without Jesus.

## IN JESUS:

1. Salvation Comes (Luke 1:26-35)
2. Deity+ Humanity Collide (Hebrews 2:17).
3. Holiness Consumes (Hebrews 4:15).



Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

Romans 5:18-19

# **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN**

**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #9 : JESUS CHRIST DIED FOR HUMANITY**

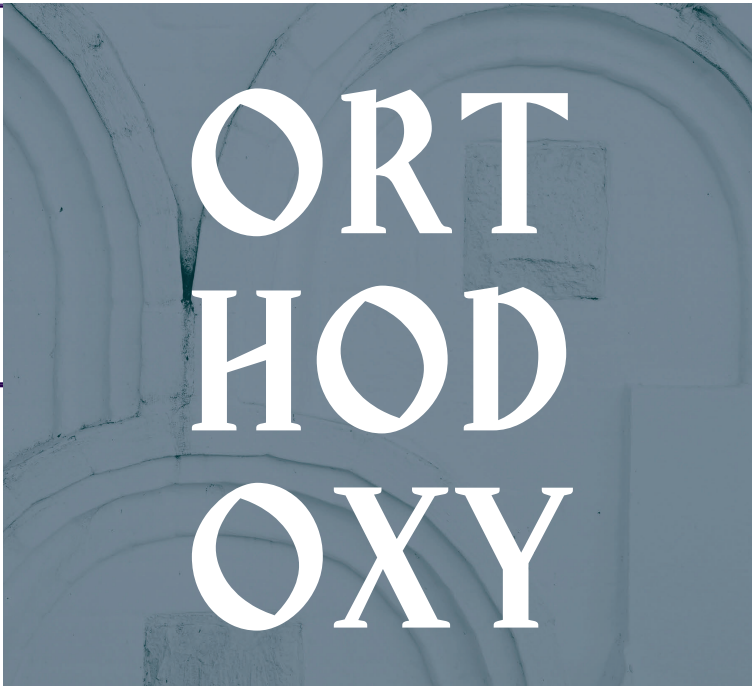
**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #10: JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED FOR 3 DAYS**

**FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE #11: JESUS CHRIST ROSE FROM THE GRAVE AND OFFERS**

**SALVATION BY GRACE TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM AND SURRENDERS LIFE TO HIM**



Christianity is the only religion that can say one God, Jesus Christ, came to earth, lived, died, was resurrected, forgives, restores, completes, changes, redeems and empowers me through and for and because of love.



## **CONSIDER**

The death of Jesus was the only way to offer humanity a not guilty verdict.

## **JESUS.**

Fully God, fully man.

Perfect. Sinless. Holy.

In complete obedience to His Father...

Out of complete love for me...

Took the blow for all sins, every sin, and specifically, my sin.

## **WHY DID JESUS COME TO EARTH AND DIE FOR ME?**

1. God's love (John 3:16).
2. God's plan (Genesis 3:15).
3. God's justice (Romans 6:23a).



But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgression – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."

Ephesians 2:4-6

# THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:22-23



If as a Christ-follower I choose not to be used to fulfill the "service" for which I am created, I am not merely forfeiting the use of the gifts given to me by the manifestation of the Spirit. I too am crippling the Church... and she will suffer.

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## DEFINE

Church /Greek/ ekklesia  
= called out ones

## THE CHURCH IS:

1. The body of Jesus Christ.
2. The community of Jesus Christ that functions universally and locally.
3. The persecuted manifestation of Jesus Christ.

## HOW DOES THE CHURCH CHANGE THE WORLD?

1. Financially support ministries that help those in need.
2. Devote myself to the teaching of the Word.
3. Fellowship with one another.
4. Break bread together.
5. Pray.



# HEAVEN IS REAL AND WHERE EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL SPEND ETERNITY

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

1 John 5:11-13



As a follower of Jesus Christ, eternity does not begin when I die. Instead, it begins when I surrender my life to Jesus.

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## DEFINE

Eternity /Greek/ aionios  
= ongoing quality

## 5 REALITIES ABOUT HEAVEN:

1. Heaven is eternal life.
2. Heaven is eternal life as a reset for humanities loss.
3. Heaven is eternal life as entirely indescribable and an undefinable beauty.
4. Heaven is eternal life in a place of no "mores."
5. Heaven is eternal life forever in the presence of Jesus Christ.



Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.

Luke 18:29-30

