

A religious painting depicting Jesus Christ with a family in a paradisaical setting. Jesus, with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe, is kneeling and embracing a young girl. Behind them stand three other family members: a man, a woman, and another child, all dressed in white robes. The woman has her hands clasped in prayer. They are in a lush garden with a blue river, green trees, and a large white building in the background. A vibrant rainbow arches across the blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of divine love and family unity.

Living as a member of God's Family

Class 1: Elevating your life to God's moral code

Why believe in a god?

Just be good
for **goodness'** sake.



www.whybelieveinagod.org | 1-800-837-3792

CLEAR CHANNEL

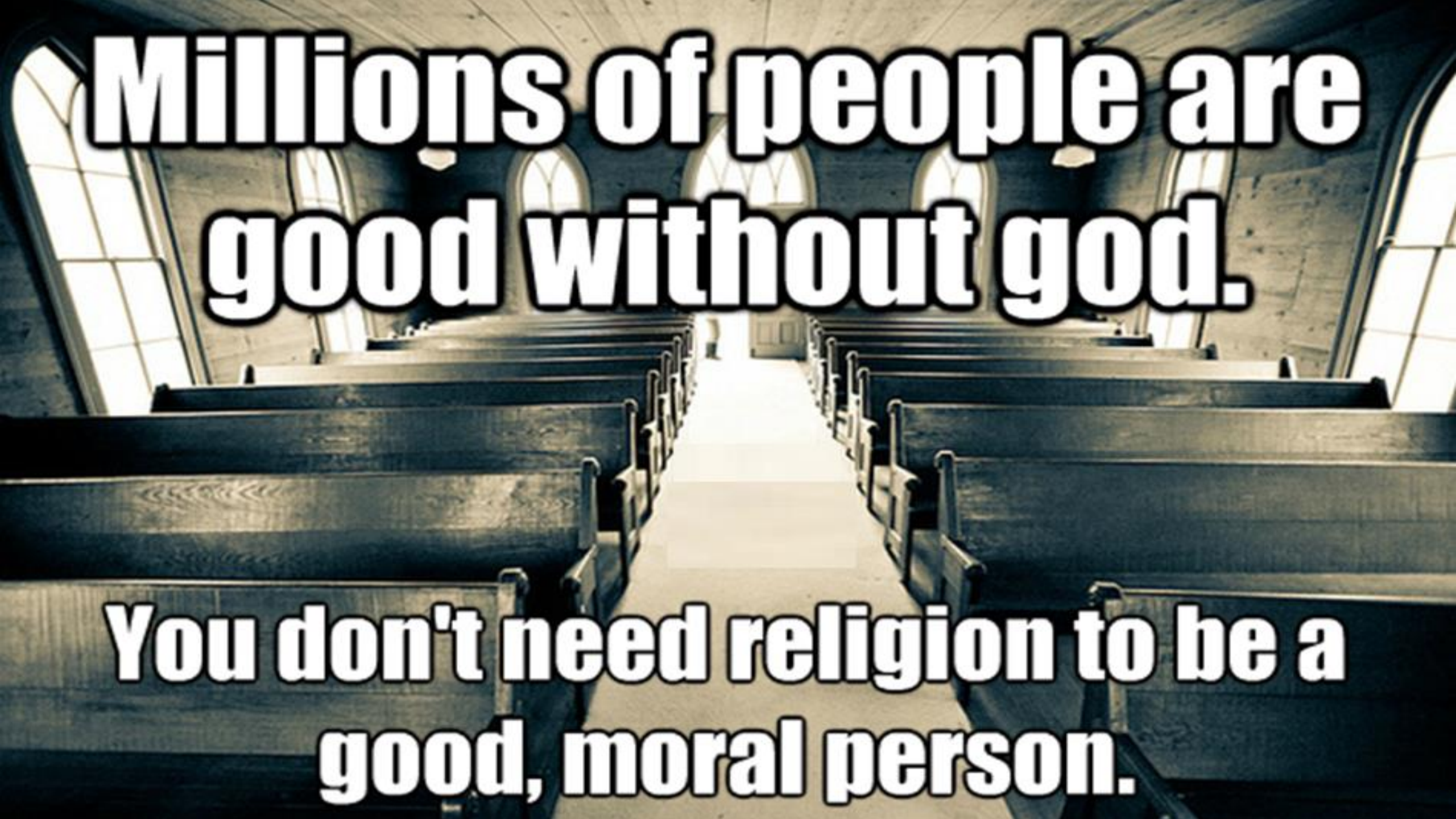
Are you good
without God?

Millions are.

SACRAMENTO CoR.ORG

4438

Sacramento Coalition of Reason

The background image shows the interior of a church. Rows of dark wooden pews are arranged on either side of a central aisle, leading towards a bright light at the far end. The walls are made of stone or concrete, and there are several large, arched windows along the sides, some of which are letting in bright light. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

**Millions of people are
good without god.**

**You don't need religion to be a
good, moral person.**

**OH, YOU NEED RELIGION
TO GUIDE YOU MORALLY?**



**COULDN'T FIGURE OUT MURDER
IS WRONG BY YOURSELF, HUH?**

WANT A BETTER WORLD?

Prayer not required.

www.AmericanHumanist.org 1-800-837-3792

But what are answers from Humanism for:



- Paying taxes?
- Divorce & remarriage? Gay marriage?
- Pre-marital sex? Nudity? Polygamy?
- War? ISIS? Vengeance?
- Stealing from the rich?
- Slavery? Abuse?

Someone has to define what is “good”

WHO DEFINES MORALS...



BIBLE?
GOVERNMENT?
SOCIETY?

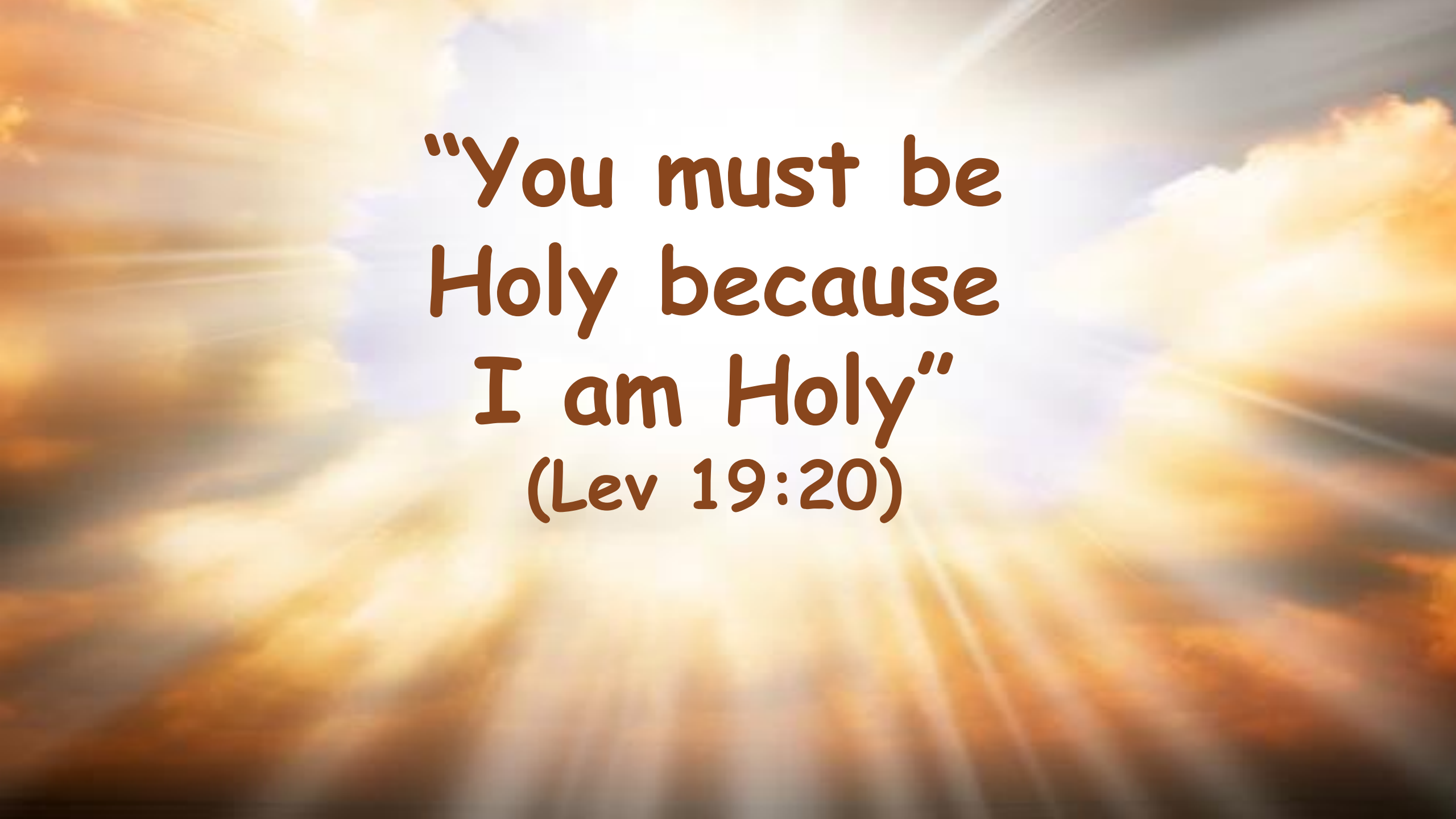
Humanism is designed for those
who intend to only live once

*you
only
live
once*

It's all about how
you feel now and
how you treat
other people for
this life only

God's morality is
designed for a
higher purpose...

Training us to join His family forever!

The background of the image is a vibrant, artistic depiction of a sky. It features soft, billowing clouds in shades of white and light blue, interspersed with intense, golden-yellow light rays that radiate from the upper left and right corners, creating a sense of divine illumination and awe.

**"You must be
Holy because
I am Holy"
(Lev 19:20)**



Humans need God's guidelines & restraints

Proverbs 29:17-19

18 Where there is no vision, the people
perish (KJV)

This is Not about us creating
our own vision of the kingdom

Humans need God's guidelines & restraints

Proverbs 29:17-19 NKJV

18 Where there is **no revelation**, the **people cast off restraint**;

Without God, people do what's right in their own eyes

Humans need God's guidelines & restraints

Proverbs 29:17-19 NKJV

17 **Correct your son**, and he will give you rest;
Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

18 Where there is **no revelation**, the **people cast off restraint**;

But happy is he **who keeps the law**.

19 A servant will **not be corrected by mere words**;
For though he understands, he will not respond.

Without God, people do what's right in their own eyes

Look at how God's family members behave

Psalm 103:19-21

19 The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the Lord, **you His angels**, who excel in strength, **who do His word, heeding the voice of His word.**

21 Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, **you ministers of His, who do His pleasure.**

**Angels have already joined God's family
because they live by His moral code**

You can trust our Coach!

He loves us so much
that He planned for
4,000 years to watch
His son die a horrible
death so He can train
us to join His family



David felt the power of God's counsel

Psalm 119:97-104

97 Oh, how **I love Your law!** It is my meditation all the day. 98 **You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;** For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. 100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.

101 **I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word.** 102 I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 **Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.**

God's precepts can restrain us from evil ways

Peter explained why God could now forgive their sins

Acts 3:25-26

25 You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, '**And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**' 26 To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, **sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."**

God's covenant to bless people through Jesus was about changing their lives so He could forgive their sins

God's Morality has a higher purpose: training us to fight the weaknesses of our flesh to prepare for a future life!



- **Don't steal** – accept our situation & what God has given us
- **No other gods before Him** – only God's morality will prepare us for immortality
- **Don't divorce or commit adultery** – practice faithfulness to God's covenant
- **Submission to one another** – training us to be submissive to God
- **No vengeance** – trust God to deal with these issues
- **No pride** – God's children will all humbly acknowledge God's hand in every aspect of life
- **Forgiveness & mercy** – if we don't practice them now we can't expect to receive them from God

Humanism morality won't prepare us for immortality

Seeking God's morality

Colossians 3:1-4

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2 Set your mind on things above,** not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

We must set our minds on God's morality

God & His angels designed our world in hope.
They hoped that as we gaze into the sky:



We will realize that the true light that gives life
to our world comes from above earth - from Him
& we will look to Him & thank Him for life

We all begin life satisfying our basic needs

Colossians 3:5-11

5 Therefore **put to death your members which are on the earth:** fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 **in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.**

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

**God is hoping to change us into different
people who learn to live like Him**

God's Careful Design: He chose to Use Families

- He could have chosen another way - communes, polygamy, divorce....
- **Gen 2:18** not good for man to be alone
- **Gen 18:19** I have known Abraham...that he might command his children
- **Eph 3:14-21** the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ...from whom the whole family in heaven and in earth is named



God allows us to experience His divine family and character through our families

Marriage was designed by God

Mark 10:6-9

6 "But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.' 7 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8 'and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9 **"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."**



Malachi 2:15

And did not he make one (wife for Adam)? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. **And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed.** Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth. *[many people were breaking their covenants]*

God designed marriage to be a one man - one woman relationship because He knows this is the best way to develop godly children!

We need to give young people good Biblical counsel



Marriages should be "in the Lord"

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (RSV)

14 Do not be mismated with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 What accord has Christ with Be'lial? Or **what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?**

18 and **I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters,** says the Lord Almighty."

God wants what's best for our spiritual lives!

Raising Godly Children is the Goal



- **We need someone at home** instructing our children
- **The focus is on our children!** When we get this right, many other problems dissolve.
- **What we do with our children is very similar to what the angels do with us** – This is our practice time! We are learning to become angels in God's Family

God designed families to help children grow up to become members of His family forever

Look how God's Family members behave

Zechariah 3:1-5

1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest **standing before the Angel of the Lord (Michael – Jude 9)**, and Satan (Samaritans: Ezra 4) standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 **And the Lord (angel) said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"** 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was **standing before the Angel.**

How did this powerful angel handle the Adversary?

Notice how an Archangel behaves!

Jude 5-11

5 But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward **destroyed those who did not believe**. 6 And the angels (human messengers with Korah) who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Jude reminds us that Angels demonstrate
to us how God's family members behave

Notice how an Archangel behaves!

Jude 5-11

8 Likewise also **these dreamers** (*of Jude's day*) **defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.** 9 Yet **Michael the archangel**, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, **dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"** 10 **But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.** 11 **Woe to them!** For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Jude reminds us that Angels demonstrate to us how God's family members behave



Remember how
the angels
treated Lot

Look at how Angels dealt with Lot

Genesis 19:1-3

19 Now **the two angels came to Sodom** in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. 2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."

And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

3 But **he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him** and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

These angels kindly accommodated Lot's request

Look at the patience of angels

Genesis 19:12-14

12 Then the men said to Lot, "**Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city — take them out of this place!**" 13 For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the Lord, and the Lord has sent us to destroy it."

14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law... But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

The angels waiting all night!

Look at how God's family members behave

Genesis 19:15-17

15 When the morning dawned, *the angels urged Lot to hurry*, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

16 And *while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him*, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. 17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Angels treat people like God does – we should too!

Look at how God's family members behave

Genesis 19:18-22

18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords **[LORD]!** 19 "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. 20 "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; *please let me escape there* (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

21 *And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.* 22 "Hurry, escape there. *For I cannot do anything until you arrive there."* Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Angels are patient, kind & accommodating

Look at how God's family members behave

Judges 5:23-24

23 '**Curse Meroz,**' [probably a single town near the battle – Issachar, Zebulun & Naphtali generally supported Deborah & Barak] **said the angel of the Lord, 'Curse its inhabitants bitterly,** because **they did not come to the help of the Lord,** to the help of the Lord against the mighty.'

24 "Most blessed among women is **Jael**, the wife of Heber the Kenite; blessed is she among women in tents.

Angels make moral decisions according to God's will

The war in our minds

Romans 8:5-11

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, **if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And **if Christ is in you,** the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

God is reprogramming our minds

God is attempting to reprogram our minds

- **By nature**, we all try to satisfy ourselves – not others
- **Our minds are very good at deceiving** ourselves and justifying our decisions
- **We tend to make decisions** based on what gives us satisfaction & pleasure now – not about the future.



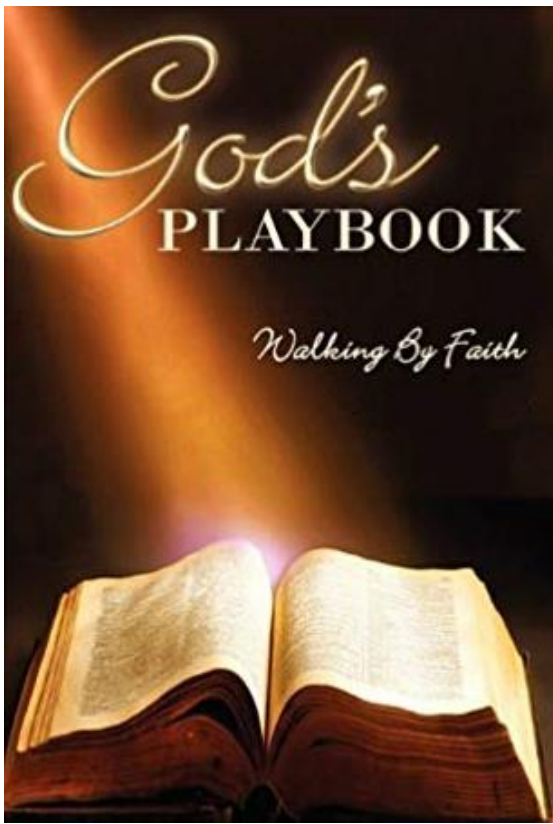
Reprogramming is a long, challenging project –
thankfully God is willing to make the effort

We all start out as ungodly people

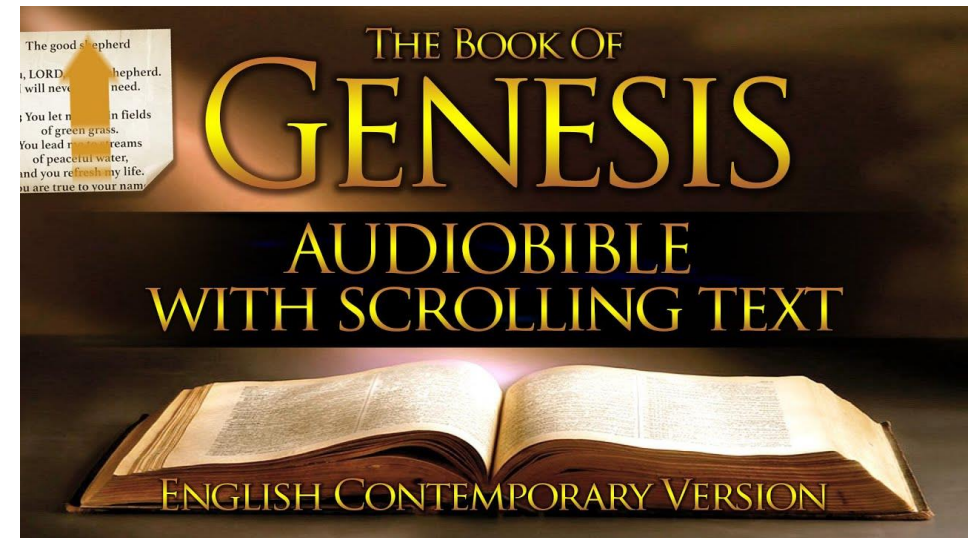
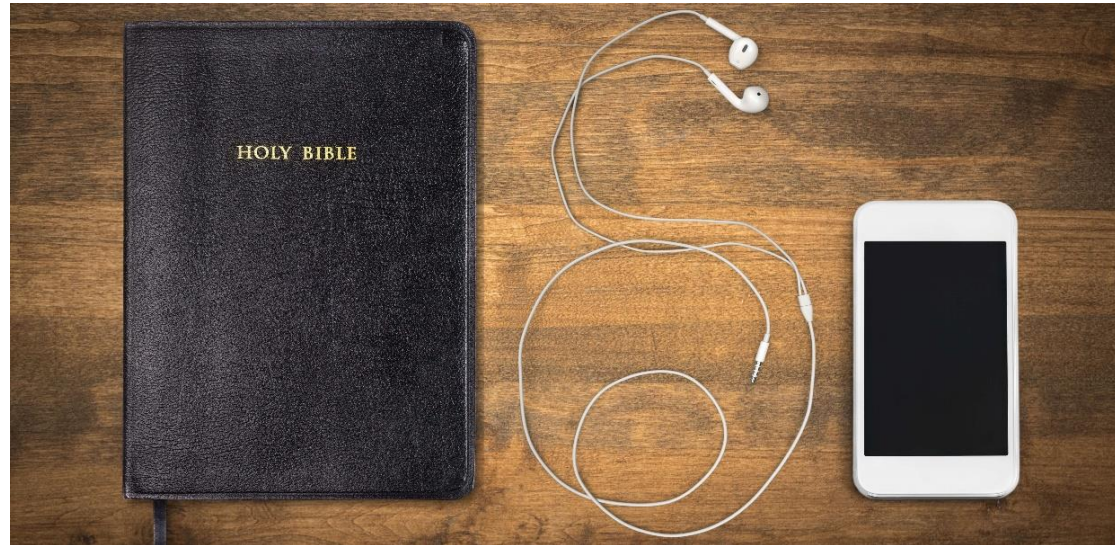
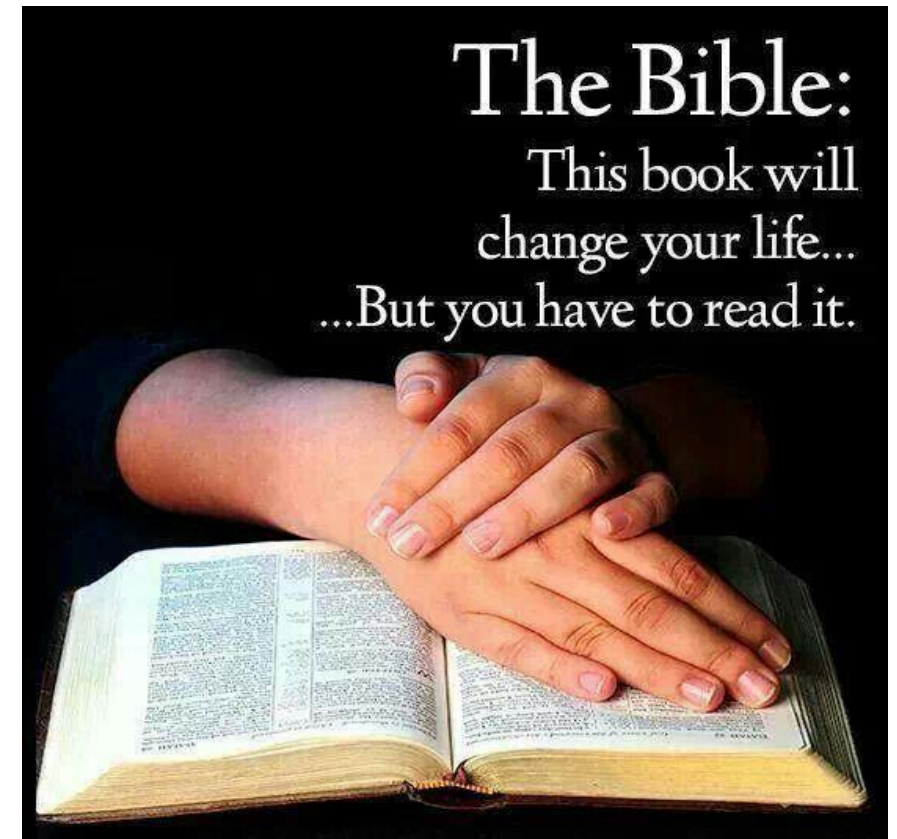
I Corinthians 6:7-11

7 Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? 8 No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! 9 **Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. **Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners** will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified,** but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

God changes us into the image of His son



**Our coach
expects us
to know the
play book**



**Our coach has provided
the motivation to join
Christ in a death like his**
“when He was reviled, did not revile
in return; when He suffered, He did
not threaten, but committed Himself
to Him who judges righteously; who
Himself bore our sins in His own body
on the tree, that we, having died to
sins, might live for righteousness —
by whose stripes you were healed.”

1 Peter 2:23-24



RENEW YOUR MIND



The Word of God



Install
this daily



Our coach
expects us
to practice



So we will
improve
our game



We must practice living right

1 John 3:7-12 (NASB)

7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; **the one who practices righteousness is righteous**, just as He is righteous; 8 **the one who practices sin is of the devil**; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 **No one who is born of God practices sin**, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: **anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.**

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

We will make mistakes, but we must practice living right daily!

Families become our training ground

Ephesians 6:1-4

1 **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.** 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but **bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.**

This becomes a basis for understanding God

God's morality is
helping you prepare
for the future



Galatians 5:22-24

22 **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 **And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

God's training will change how we live

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NCV

There is a time for everything, and everything on earth has its special season.

2 There is a time to be born and a time to die. There is a time to plant and a time to pull up plants.

3 There is a time to kill and a time to heal. There is a time to destroy and a time to build.

4 There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There is a time to be sad and a time to dance.

5 There is a time to throw away stones and a time to gather them. There is a time to hug and a time not to hug.

6 There is a time to look for something and a time to stop looking for it. There is a time to keep things and a time to throw things away.

7 There is a time to tear apart and a time to sew together. There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.

8 There is a time to love and a time to hate. There is a time for war and a time for peace.

We don't have the wisdom to act at the right time

**Abraham & Sarah didn't
know the right time!**



**God visited Sarah at the
right time, and the child
of promise was born**



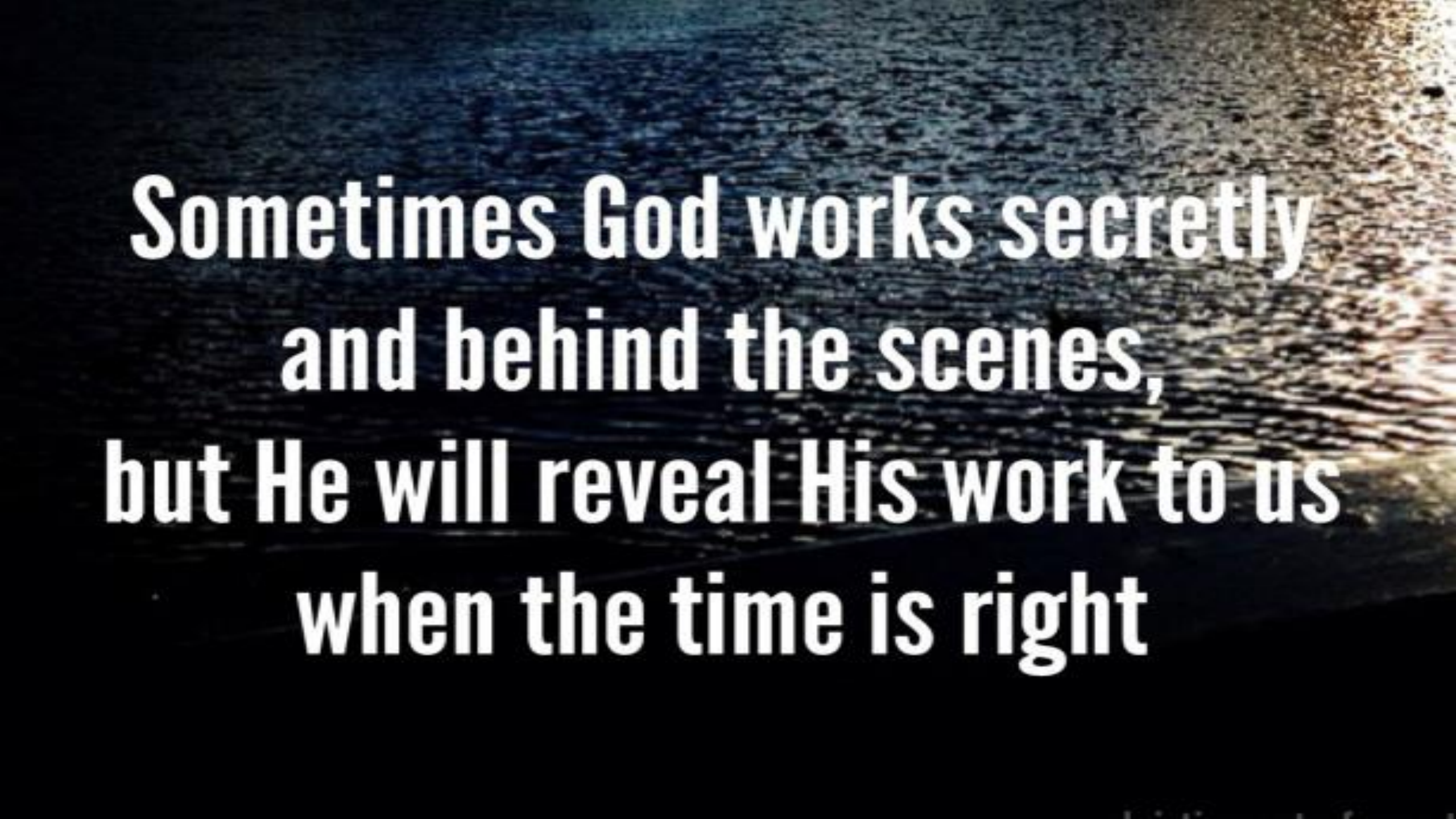
**They decided to
take things into
their own hands**



God does things at the right time

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14 NCV

9 Do people really gain anything from their work? 10 I saw the hard work God has given people to do. 11 God has given them a desire to know the future. **He does everything just right and on time, but people can never completely understand what he is doing.** 12 **So I realize that the best thing for them is to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live.** 13 **God wants all people to eat and drink and be happy in their work, which are gifts from God.** 14 I know that everything God does will continue forever. People cannot add anything to what God has done, and they cannot take anything away from it. God does it this way to make people respect him.



**Sometimes God works secretly
and behind the scenes,
but He will reveal His work to us
when the time is right**

**FAITH
IN GOD
INCLUDES
FAITH
IN HIS
TIMING**



Waiting for God's timetable

- **Abraham & Sarah** waited till it was humanly impossible for them to have a child
- **Isaac & Rebekah** waited 20 years for God to give them children
- **Job** waited for God to finally send Elihu and speak to Job himself
- **David** ran from Saul for years as he waited for God to make him king
- **Jacob** waited years for God to change his children into spiritual sons of God
- **Joseph** waited for over 20 years for God to reunite him with his family and his dreams to be fulfilled
- **Moses, Caleb & Joshua** waited 40 years for God to lead Israel into the promised land
- **Abigail** patiently waited years for God to remove Nabal and grant her a Godly husband

**God does things at the right time,
according to His purpose. He waited
4,000 years to send His son!**



Be still in the
presence of the
Lord, and wait
patiently for Him
to act.

Psalms 37:7





This is the piece we must provide!



**Our Faith
must grow
like a
mustard
seed**

**God directs
the growth**



We practice righteousness daily so...

**We won't fall into sex
before marriage**



**We won't commit
adultery**

**We won't divorce our
partner and split our family**



Practicing Righteousness will help us in



MAKING

GODLY

DECISIONS

There will be troubles & trials!

Hebrews 12:3-11

3 For consider Him (Jesus) who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. 5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; 6 For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

**God uses our trials & troubles
to train us to join His Family**

There will be troubles & trials!

Hebrews 12:3-11

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, **but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.** 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the **peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

God is training us to join His Family

God is trying to elevate
your life to His moral code

Thank Him,
don't fight
His
decisions



**Practicing Righteousness
will help us:**
**Use the internet and
cell phones for
profitable activities**



Through love
serve one
another.
— Galatians 5:13



Practicing Righteousness will help us:

Use alcohol
responsibly



KNOW WHEN TO STOP



Alcohol in Genesis



It clouds judgment & removes inhibitions

- **Gen 9:21** Noah became drunk and Ham came in
- **Gen 19:33** Lot's daughters got him drunk and he fathered children by them
- **Gen 29:22** Probably involved in Jacob not realizing that he had gone in to Leah



God can forgive us of our mistakes, but we still live with the consequences of our actions when our judgment is clouded by alcohol



It's hard to make Good Choices



- **Must overcome our embarrassment**
 - (like prodigal son)
 - Like Naomi returning home (Ruth 1)
- **May need to pull out of depression**, discouragement and despair from other bad choices
- **Turn to God** – pray for His help!
- **Turn to your ecclesia** – Ask for help!

A = Always
S = Say
A = A
P = Prayer



True children in God's family rejoice when struggling family members return. They are helpful, supportive and understanding. This is their opportunity to show God's love!



We live with the Consequences of Bad Choices – Like Lot



- 1) Lost his wife, most of his household
- 2) Lost his home and possessions
- 3) Lost touch with Abraham (the ecclesia)
- 4) Became depressed and wanted isolation
- 5) Impregnated his own two daughters

Dinah & Shechem



Achan



Prodigal Son



Get involved in your Ecclesia!

Support Ecclesial activities

- **Show up to Bible classes** & seminars
- **Volunteer** to help with activities
- **Assist in Sunday School and CYC**
 - Create a project for Sunday School class teacher
 - Help out at CYC activities and weekend trips
- **Don't worry about prominent positions**, do whatever needs to get done
- **Don't take someone's job**, do something that isn't getting done now



There's no "I"
in "team"

WHATEVER YOU DO,
WORK AT IT WITH
ALL YOUR HEART,
AS WORKING FOR
THE LORD,
NOT FOR MEN.
COLOSSIANS 3:23

Lessons from this class

- Don't get caught up in humanism philosophy today – it's for this life only
- Learn to appreciate & trust God's design for families and ecclesias – He's using them to train us to join His family
- Follow God's game plan – practice righteousness daily – He knows what He's doing and it will work.
- Get involved in your ecclesia and support your members