



A Conversation About God's Loving Plan for Saving the World by Karen Sue Nyquist



1. **What is the the most famous verse in the Bible? - “I don’t know.”** It’s, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). **“I think I’ve heard that before.”**

2. **What does this verse tell us about God? - “God loves us?”** That’s right and it tells us a lot more. a. God loves the world. b. God has only one Son that was begotten by Him. c. God wants us to believe in His Son. **“Why?”** d. For two reasons. First, God does not want us to perish. **“What’s next?”** e. Second, God wants us to have everlasting life. **“Everlasting life sounds good to me.”** f. God sent His Son so that people could be saved. **“Saved? From what?”** I’ll explain in a few minutes. Let’s look at what each of these points mean.

a. **God loves the world.** - That means He loves each of us! **“That’s good news!”** Yes, the good news is called “the Gospel.”

b. **God has only one Son that was begotten by Him.** - “And the angel answered and said to her (*Mary*), ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God’” (Luke 1:35). So, God miraculously begot one Son. **“Who is God’s son?”** Jesus Christ. **“How do you know?”** God tells us in His Word, the Bible. “When He (*Jesus*) had been baptized, ... suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased’” (Matthew 3:16-17).

c. **God wants us to believe in Jesus Christ, His Son.** - Later, God said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (Matthew 17:5). Jesus often referred to God as “My Father” (Luke 22:28-30, 24:49). We are to believe what Jesus says. **“Why should we believe Jesus?”** So we don’t perish and so we can have everlasting life. **“Go on.”**

d. **God does not want us to perish.** - “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (Romans 3:36). **“Wrath of God? I thought you said God loves us.”**

1) **God is loving but He is also a lawgiver and a judge.** - All of us have sinned by breaking His moral laws. “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). “For the wages of sin *is* death ...” (Romans 6:23a). Because we’ve broken God’s laws, we deserve to die, and have received the death penalty. **“What laws?”** The 10 Commandments for a starter (Exodus 20:1-17). **“No one’s perfect. We’re all going to die, we can’t change that.”**

2) **The Bible is talking about perishing,** - dying both physically and spiritually, having no hope of eternal life in heaven but going to hell. **“Hell! I’m not that bad. I don’t even know if I believe in hell. I’m out of here.”** Wait! Don’t leave! Please listen, God has a plan that can save us and has a gift for us. **“Ok, I’m listening.”**

e. **God wants us to have everlasting life** - The rest of that verse says “ ... but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23b). “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11-12). **“What’s the big deal about Jesus, God’s Son?”**

f. **God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that people could be saved.** - “... the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world” (1 John 4:13). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Jesus died, taking our death penalty onto Himself, so we can be saved from perishing and from hell. **“He died! How? When?”** He was whipped, then crucified 2,000 years ago. **“That’s a terrible way to die!”** Yes, Jesus’ death was torturous and excruciating, but He accepted the death



penalty for the world. ***“Why would Jesus Christ go through all of that for us?”***

1) Jesus Christ loves us, that's why He died for us. - Jesus said, “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends” (John 15:13). ***“Wow! Jesus had some powerful love! Jesus was a big deal!”*** Yes, He is. Then ...

2) Jesus Christ rose from the dead. - ***“Rose from the dead? Do you really believe that?”*** Yes, because God tells us that Jesus rose. At Jesus' tomb, where He had been buried, an angel told some of Jesus' followers, “He is not here; for He is risen, as He said” (Matthew 28:6). Then many people saw Him alive (1 Corinthians 15:6). Also, Jesus' Spirit lives in me! ***“Really, Jesus is inside you? How do you know?”*** I feel His love and guidance.

3) Jesus' Spirit lives in all believers. - Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you” (John 15:4). He's changing me, improving me! “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). When Christ's Spirit comes inside of us, we are born again. ***“Born again, what's that mean?”***

3. Jesus explained that we must be Born Again to be saved. - “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God (*heaven*).’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water (*from our mother*) and the (*Holy*) Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh (*our first birth as a baby*), and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (*our second, spiritual birth*). Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’” (John 3:3-7). “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (1 John 5:1). ***“This is a lot. Please explain, how are we saved?”***

4. We need to repent of our sins, of breaking God's moral law. - “Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent ...’” (Matthew 4:17). ***“Repent means to be sorry, right?”*** Yes, but Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, said it also means we change our behavior (Matthew 3:8). Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, said we need to repent, be baptized, and God will give us the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9). ***“Why are you telling me all of this?”*** Because I want you to be saved too and I'm obeying Jesus.

5. Jesus Christ gave us the Great Commission - “Go into all the world and preach the gospel (*the good news*) to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned (*will still be under the death penalty and will perish*)” (Mark 16:15-16). ***“If I decide I want to get saved, what do I do?”***

6. Believe, repent, confess, and ask - “... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus said we can ask for the Holy Spirit. “how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13). “By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit” (John 4:13). **Do you want Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? - If so, you may pray.**

7. **Suggested Prayer:** “Jesus, I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, and that You rose from the dead. I repent of sinning, by breaking God's laws. Thank You for loving me and dying for me. I confess You as my Lord and Savior. Please, help me live in Your will and give me the Holy Spirit. AMEN!” Name _____ Date _____



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