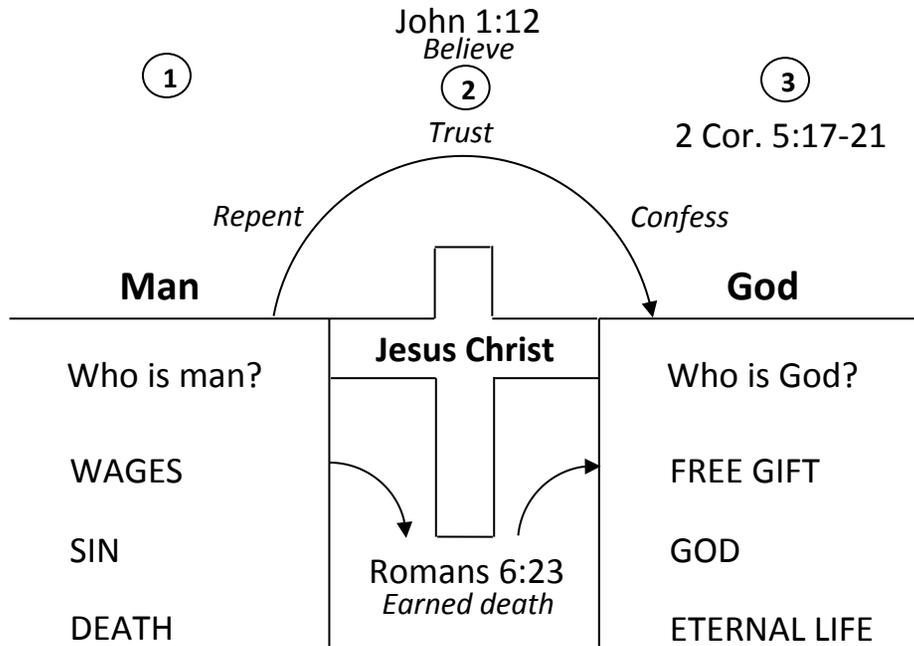


Sharing God's Story: The Bridge Diagram



The Bridge Diagram: A Sample Dialogue

(Transition) Would you like to see what the Bible says about how you can know for certain that you will go to heaven?

In order to understand how we can know for certain we must first understand some things about God and about man. Let's look at God and see what He is like.

(1) Based on your understanding of God, what are some of His attributes? (Write down two or three of the attributes they name underneath the "God" heading.)

(2) OK, now let's look at man. Compared to God, would you say that people are generally similar to God or different from God? (Write down a few characteristics of people under the "Man" (or "People") heading.)

(3) The Bible says that all of us have turned our back's on God. We have broken God's law and fall short of His standard. What would you say this does to our relationship with God?

(4a) In Romans 6:23, we see that there is a penalty for our disobedience to God. This verse says that the penalty for breaking God's law is death.

Sin separates us from God now, resulting in spiritual death. This accounts for the emptiness man experiences in his life. If sins separates us from God during life, it will continue to separate us forever after we die. The final punishment for sin is called eternal death – or hell.

(4b) The good news is that the verse goes on to say that God offers us forgiveness as a free gift through Jesus.

(5) Although forgiveness is freely offered to us, the Bible says that this forgiveness isn't automatic. Like any gift, we must receive it.

(6) John 1:12 says that to receive the forgiveness and eternal life Jesus offers, we must believe in Him.

(7) True believing is more than simply an intellectual understanding of certain facts. We must:

- *Repent ("Jesus is Lord")*
Repentance is a change of mind that results in a changed life. We must change our mind to agree with God that we have broken His laws and deserve His judgment.
- *Trust ("believe in your heart")*
We must then put our trust in Jesus alone to pay the penalty we have earned.
- *Confess ("confess with your mouth")*
Then we must confess this to God.

Does this make sense to you? Explain to me in your own words what you would need to do to have your sins forgiven and receive eternal life.

Would you like to open up your life to Jesus and receive His Spirit now?