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What
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What is Order?

I would like to introduce you to an old friend, a constant companion. From the humdrum routine of everyday life, to the efficiency of the simplest task, to the complexity of photosynthesis and beyond, it is there, reminding you. You go to the library and see the books lining the shelves, and it's there. You take a quick trip to the store to grab a loaf of bread, and it's there. Who or what is this timeless friend? Order! It constantly bombards our everyday lives: when we drive, work, and even do menial tasks. Where did order originate from, and how can we learn from its author? Let's take a look at the word ORDER to understand its author.

O **origin: Where did everything come from?** God created everything. Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning God created the heavens and earth." For us to make sense out of origin, the starting point has to be God. Why? Without God there is chaos and anarchy. Saying that we came about by a process of random chance is like saying that throwing a stick of dynamite in a printing press will make the Declaration of Independence. This orderly God made origin possible. Creation started because of God. If this is true, what is God like? Let's look at four of His characteristics: holiness, justice, wrath, and mercy, so we will have a right understanding of the one who brought everything into existence.

Holiness is described in Isaiah 40:25, "To whom will you liken Me that I would be his equal?" says the holy one." This means that no one can be compared to God. Which is more like God: either an Angel in heaven or a dead animal laying on the side of the road? Neither the Angel nor the dead animal is like God. He is holy and is the only truly Holy one.

Justice is described in Psalms 9:16, “The Lord has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of His own hands the wicked are snared.” He is the only true, just judge and unto Him all creation will ultimately submit. Clearly He has made himself known to man through man’s conscience and through His creation. Whether galaxies light years away or the earth that we exist on and admire, He is the just judge over it all.

Wrath is described in Jeremiah 6:19, “Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, The fruit of their plans, Because they have not listened to My words, And as for My law, they have rejected it also.” This is God’s divine disapproval toward all sin committed against his holiness. No one on God’s earth can escape this divine disfavor as will be explained next. (We will outline the fourth characteristic of God, mercy, on page 8.)

R **eality: What happened to me and you?** We all have sinned. Romans 3:23 says, “...we all have sinned and fall

short of God's glory." How did this happen? At this time you may be starting to justify yourself, by thinking, I am a pretty good person. You may be, compared to others, but how about compared to God? Here, let's look in the mirror. Have you ever heard of the Ten Commandments? These are described in Exodus 20:2-17, "You are not to make any gods before the one true God, you are not to make any idols, don't take God's name in vain, keep the Sabbath holy, honor your mother and father, do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not lie, do not covet." How are you doing in obeying all of these without breaking any? Not good, I know. You are like the rest of humanity—guilty. Where did it all go wrong?

The Fall: Genesis 3:15 says, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel." It started with Adam and Eve, and the effects of it reach into every square inch of creation like a deadly

plague. This leaves us with a colossal question: How can a just God just forgive sins? The answer: He can't. If a just God cannot overlook sin, and sins must be punished, this means that we will be punished for our sins.

Why Hell? Because sin is willfully committed against the infinite and eternal God, the punishment will be infinite and eternal in a place called hell. This is described in Matthew 10:28a, "...fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." What can you do to escape the agony of hell and glorify God instead of sin against Him?

D **one: What has God done?** The God of the Bible is not just any God, He is the One True God. People all over the world worship many different gods. These gods are not really gods at all, they are idols. God was specific in how He communicated to us. He did not communicate through the Muslim Qu'ran, Buddhist Tripitaka, Hindu Vedas, or any other religions or cults. He spoke through the Bible.

He proved that the Bible is true by filling it with prophecies that have come true. The most important one detailed how He sent His son Jesus to die for sins. Isaiah 53:5 says, “But he was pierced through for our transgressions (sins), He was crushed for our iniquities (sin).” The fulfillment of this prophecy is described in John 3:16, which says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” So what you have to do to escape the agony of hell and glorify God is accept the free gift that Jesus gave to you by dying on the cross for your sin and believe in Him for your eternal salvation. Accept and believe—Jesus died for your sins! You can be forgiven!

Mercy of God: Although you are sinful and rebellious against God, He mercifully sent His son to take your place. What does this mean? Jesus took the just wrath of God when He was crucified on the cross. God’s justice had to be satisfied, and it could only be completely satisfied by a

perfect sacrifice. This perfect sacrifice was His Son, Jesus. Once He died on the cross, He was placed in a tomb, and on the third day He was resurrected, defeating death and hell. Matthew 28:6 describes this event, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying."

Evident God: Why do you know this is true? Right now you may be justifying in your mind why all of this is false, but there are two whistle blowers when it comes to comprehending the reality of the existence of God that will ruin your justification for not believing in the one true God. One is creation. Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." The complexity and order of creation leaves everyone without excuse. Whether you have a PhD or are in grammar school, you know God exists through

creation. Random selection could not produce the order that it takes to produce and sustain life. Two is our conscience: Romans 2:15 says, "...in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them." The moral law that God has placed inside our hearts is sounding the alarm daily. Although it has slight variations from culture to culture, the core of morals is universal. Killing is wrong. Stealing is wrong, lying is wrong, etc... You are without excuse. In this situation, creation and the human conscience leave every human without excuse. Exposing people to the order that God has put in place should lead people to submit to His authority.

Respond: Will you respond to this news? Make a decision today to repent and place your faith in Jesus Christ. Matthews 4:17 says, "...from that time Jesus began to preach and say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at

hand.” Repentance in its most basic meaning is to change your mind and realize that God is right and you are wrong. With repentance comes the flip side of the coin, which is Faith. Faith is where you place your hope completely in what Jesus did for you. His sacrifice on the cross satisfied the wrath of God so that you could receive what you cannot earn; the mercy of God found through Jesus! God is the author of order, and if you have not placed your trust in Him, then your life will be in disorder. If what you have read makes sense and you know you are guilty of sin against this holy God, repent and place your faith in Christ right now. You can pray any way you like, God understands you. A prayer like, “God, I know that I have sinned, and I need a Savior. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and rose again, so that I can go to heaven with Him one day. Please forgive me for my sins, and thank you for making a way to save me. Amen.”

Now you may wonder, "How do I know if I am genuinely saved?" Great question! If your life starts to change from your repentance and faith in Jesus, and you start to hate the sins you once loved with a godly sorrow, that is a sign of true salvation. However, if you leave this moment and there is no true change in your life, what you just prayed was a futile attempt at repentance. 1 Corinthians 7:10 says, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death." Repentance without regret is a new relationship with sin. You will begin to hate the sins you once loved. This is the new creation that 2 Corinthians 5:17 talks about, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: The old has gone, the new is here!" While no one can ever be perfect, and that is the very reason we need Jesus, we pray you become a new creation in Him through repentance, faith, and bear Godly fruit through Biblical obedience.

*If you have decided to trust Christ today,
please contact us at (919) 307-7446
and let us know so we can help
teach you more about Jesus.*

We look forward to hearing from you!



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