

You might be thinking, "That cannot be true. If God is God, He can get anything He wants." You are correct in your thinking, but there is one situation in which God has chosen to limit Himself. There is a very interesting passage in the Bible in the book of First Timothy chapter two, verses three and four. They say, "*This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires that all people be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.*" (ESV)

Notice the phrase, "*desires that all people be saved.*" It describes what God wants. Unfortunately, that is not what God gets. This calls for a bit of explanation.

First of all, you might be wondering, "*What is it that God wants people to be saved from?*" That's a fair question. The short answer to the question is this. We must be saved from the consequences of our humanity. That may seem like a strange answer, but it makes sense, if we look into our history as human beings. The Bible tells us that the human race began when God created Adam and Eve. That means that ALL human beings are descendants of Adam. Consequently, we have inherited certain characteristics from him. Physically, we inherited arms, legs, two eyes, and a nose; not to mention a brain and all the other parts of our body. We also inherited non-physical

characteristics like a soul. Through our inheritance from Adam we have the ability to sense that there is a God and a spiritual world beyond the one that we can see and touch. It is at this spiritual level that our inheritance from Adam puts human beings in need of being saved. You can read about the problem in the book of Genesis. In essence, Adam chose to do what he wanted to do instead of what God wanted him to do. He rebelled against God. The Bible calls it sin. As a result Adam doomed the entire human race. Romans 5:12 puts it this way, "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all*

*men, for that all have sinned.*" All of us have inherited Adam's rebellious spirit. As a result we find it easier to do what we want than what God wants. We are all sinners. No one has to teach us to sin, we do it naturally. The consequence of our being sinners is two-fold. First of all, we will all die physically. You know that is true. Secondly, there is also a spiritual consequence. The Bible tells us that when our body dies our spirit lives on and will spend an eternity in one of two places, Heaven or Hell. God wants us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven, but that is where God does not get everything He wants. God leaves it up to each person to

isified with the penalty that Jesus paid on the cross, the penalty for our sin. If we are willing to do that, He promises us eternal life.

Will you trust God, accept His gift, and give Him your life in return? "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*" (John 3:36)



The Bible describes it this way, "*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness by whose stripes ye were healed.*" (I Peter 2:24)

Unfortunately, just because Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin doesn't mean that the entire human race is on its way to Heaven.

Of course, that is what God wants, but He has set aside his desires to let you and me decide for ourselves.

It may be difficult to comprehend, but God lets us determine whether or not He gets what He wants, as it relates to our eternal destiny.

God offers us eternal life in Heaven by trusting Him. We do that by accepting the truth that God is sat-

decide where they will spend eternity. He does not force anyone to go to Heaven.

You might be thinking, "**Don't we all automatically go to Heaven, unless we are very bad?**"

The problem is, in God's eyes we are all very bad. "*There is none righteous, no, not one.*" (Romans 3:10)

Fortunately, God has offered a solution to our problem. He has provided a substitute for us. Instead of our having to pay the penalty for our sin, God has provided His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for us.

When Jesus was crucified, He was not just fulfilling the role of a martyr. He was taking upon Himself the punishment that we deserve for being rebels against God.

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