

Does the Creator King have face?

Where

do we

belong?

*That depends on our
relationships and our face.*

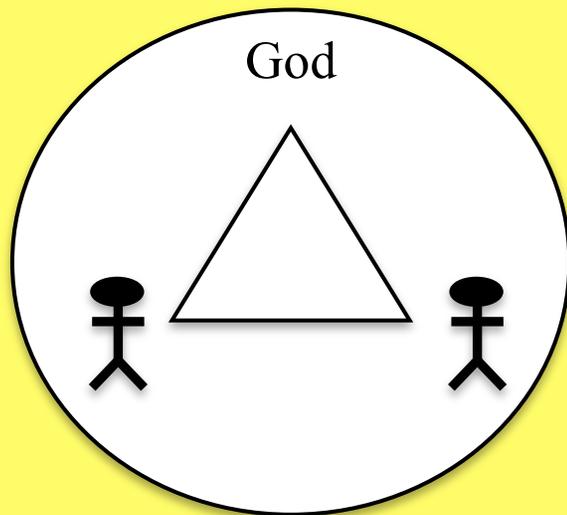
*But what does
all this mean?*

*The following historical story answers
these questions.*

In the beginning, . . .

The one true God created the world and all living things. He brought order to his creation, making it be a place of blessing.

*He made male and female according to his image. We share in God's face. God is humanity's heavenly **father**. He calls them to represent him in the creation. Thus, we owe God honor.*



*The Creator-King designed the world to be the place where he would dwell with his people. He wants all things to enjoy his holiness. God determined to bless the world through relationships. As people **honored** him, they would also enjoy unity with one another. God's kingdom was to be a place of righteousness.*

The one true God planned to use the human family to fill the earth with his glory. If only they would love their Father and King, there would be harmony in the world.

Questions

1. Who is God?
2. Why does he deserve honor and glory?
3. What is God's design for the world?

*One
Family
Under
Heaven*

Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; 104

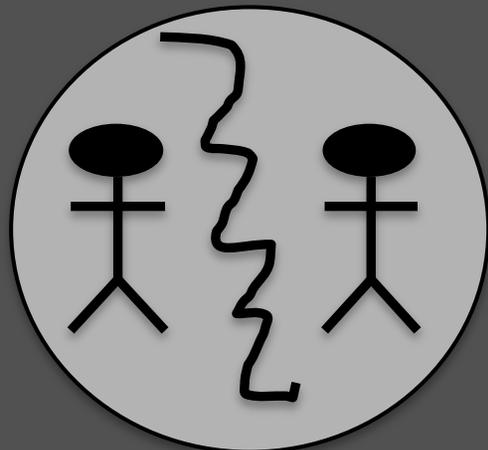
What is wrong with the world?

Since our earliest ancestors, we have loved created things more than the Creator. We forsake our Father for food, face, and fortune. Although humans were created to reflect God's glory, they have dishonored God's name.

Because people have lost face before their Father and King, humans are alienated from God and one another. Shame stains the human family. Human rebellion brings about the curse of discord and death. People owe God their life.

In fear, people seek face, hoping to find security and joy. We trust in ourselves and our relationships rather than our Father. We misuse relationships for personal gain.

The King's family has betrayed Him. They choose to set up rival factions and occupy his kingdom. When people violate and offend the king, they commit what is called "sin."



Questions

1. What went wrong with the human family?
2. What do people owe God?
3. What is "sin"?

*Losing
Face
&
Seeking
Face*

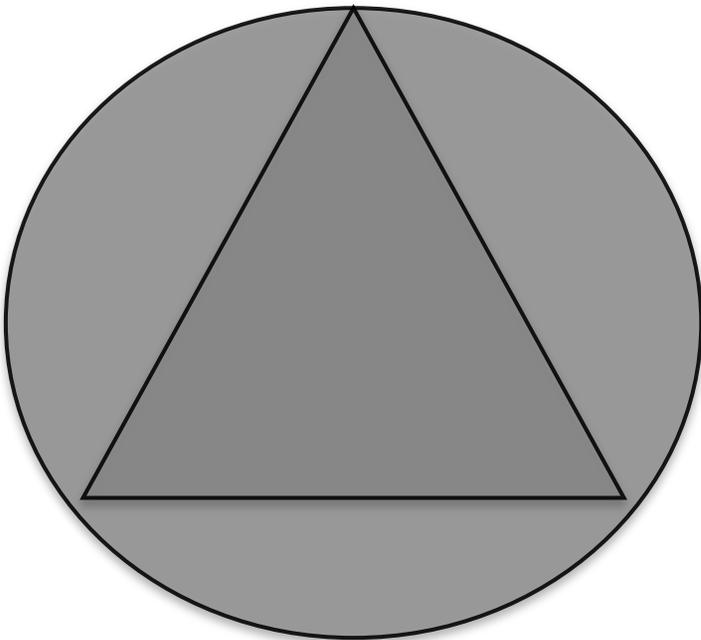
Genesis 3, 4, 11; Roman 1:18-30

But there is good news.

The Creator-King planned to reverse the world's curse. He made a covenant with a man named Abraham, promising to bless the world through his offspring. From Abraham, God created a nation, Israel, to be a light to the nations. He showed his power and grace by rescuing them from slavery. He provided them with land, food, and a law.

God's royal law was intended to reveal God's nature and will. In this way, the law glorifies God by helping people to envision a society where justice reigns. It exposes human sin and teaches his people to live holy and righteous lives.

God wants to live among his people. Therefore, he commanded them to build a Temple to symbolize his presence with them. He



King of All Nations

established Israel to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation who worshiped the one true God (Exodus 19:6). God planned to use his relationship with Israel to bless the nations.

However, Israel failed to honor their covenant. Their religion became a mere tradition. They had hard hearts. They preferred the praise of people over the praise of God.

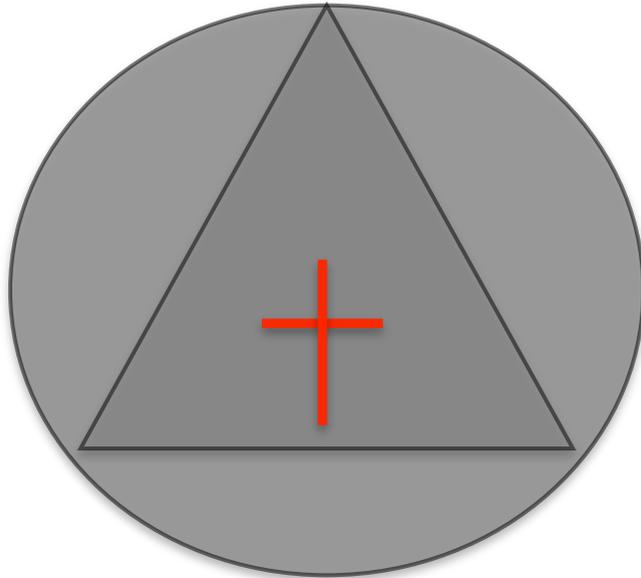
*God's people became **shameful** and so concealed the truth of God's glory among the nations.*

Questions

1. How did God reveal Himself to Abraham and his family?
2. What is God's will for His people?
3. What was Israel's problem?

Genesis 12; Exodus 12,14, 19-20; Deuteronomy 30;
2 Samuel 7; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; Ezekiel 36-37

*Setting
the
World
Right*



However, God is righteous.

He does not forsake his promises to this people. He will indeed restore his creation and be Father to all nations.

The heavenly Father sent his son Jesus to be the world's one true King. Through him, God fulfills his covenant to Abraham. From Israel, God raised up a Savior, called "Christ." This Son of heaven sets the world right.

Jesus declared the good news,

*"The time has come, God's kingdom is near!
Repent and believe this good news" (Mark 1:15)*

Not only did he teach what God's kingdom is like, he also healed the sick and cared for the socially disadvantaged. People often love only others like themselves, but Jesus loves all people. He opposed God's enemies, whether demons, disease, unjust authorities, and the like.

Jesus challenged society's traditional thinking. Therefore, the leaders of Jesus' day opposed him, provoking the common people to reject him.

Although he had committed no crime, people ultimately condemned him, crucifying him on a cross. Even though he deserved people's allegiance and honor, they humiliated him. Their selfish hearts were defiled, refusing to give God glory.

However, this was all according to God's planned will. God had always planned that Jesus would repay the debt humanity owed God. Although people are hostile to him, our king – Jesus – willingly bears the burden of humanity's depraved offenses, taking away their curse.

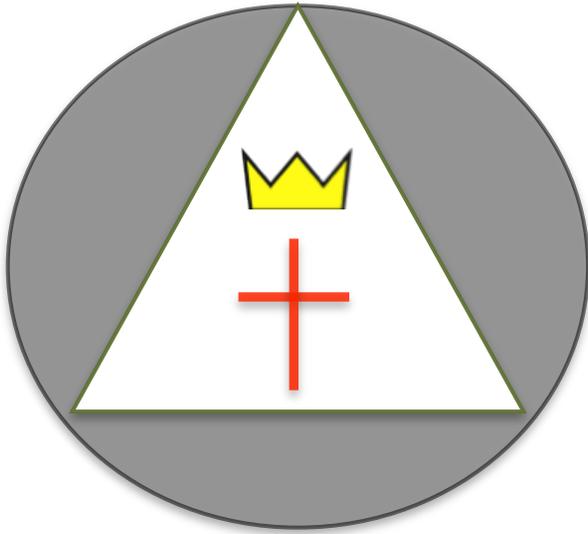
Jesus' entire life even unto death perfectly glorified the heavenly father. To everyone's surprise, this is how Christ gained victory!

Questions

- 1. Why did God send Jesus into the world?*
- 2. How did Jesus honor God during his life?*
- 3. How did people respond to Jesus?*

Romans 10; Luke 8;
John 8:12-59; 18-19

*Honored
through
Shame*



The heavenly Father turned the tables.

Jesus was buried and after three days, God raised Jesus from the dead. From humanity's first ancestors to the present, death seems to rule every aspect of the present world. However, Christ overturns the powers in the world that oppose God. Jesus through resurrection defeats death to become the Lord of life. Any who pledge loyalty to his will no longer be slaves to fear.

*God through the resurrection vindicates Jesus and so declares his people righteous. Although we lost face, God in Christ, restores our face. God the Father causes all who are loyal to Christ to come under his name. He thus rebuilds the human family. They are called "**Church.**"*

Jesus cleanses them from corrupting filth. Therefore, God's Holy Spirit dwells among his people. They are God's temple, the place where God dwells. Through his Spirit, God changes people's hearts such that they imitate Christ, giving them freedom to live holy lives. God's children are regarded with honor as a royal priesthood.

The Creator-King turns their view of the world inside out. God commands all people give allegiance to King Jesus, repenting of shameful behaviors and attitudes. Christ's followers become his ambassadors among all nations. They proclaim, "Be reconciled to God!"

*Yet, God overturns the world's standard of **honor and shame**. The world does not understand His people such that many even reject them. What God sees as glorious, the world sees as shameful. What God sees as shameful, the world sees as glorious.*

Questions

1. How did God vindicate Jesus as the world's true king?
2. How does God change people who follow Jesus?

John 20; Luke 24; Acts 13:14-41;
Romans 1:1-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 20-28; 2 Corinthians 4-5

God's people have a wonderful hope.

After his resurrection, Christ ascended to God the Father. God's children await Christ's return from heaven, God's throne room.

*All who are in Christ are glorified with him. They will receive resurrected bodies, made into the likeness of Christ. The human family, once estranged, will be reconciled. The entire world will dearly **love** one another with all sincerity.*

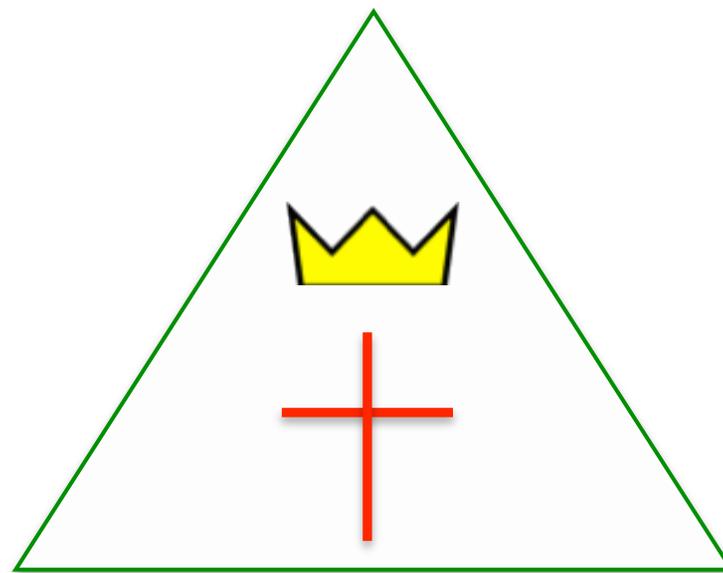
God through Jesus will ultimately defeat his enemies, especially death. He will condemn those who will not give their allegiance to him. In this way, the Father-King will wipe away the disgrace and injustice that his people have suffered.

Our Creator-King will make a new heaven and new earth. According to his original plan and promises, he remakes the world to be the Temple in which he dwells with humanity. Every tribe and nation will become a universal brotherhood.

God restores harmony. The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

The Creator-King truly has face!

***Avenging Shame &
Restoring God's Kingdom***



Questions

1. Christ's followers have what future hope?
2. What will happen when Jesus returns?
3. Why does God have "face", true honor?

Isaiah 65:13-25; Romans 8;
1 Corinthians 15:50-58; Revelation 21:1-8

What does this story have to do with me?

***If you enter into this great story, then
God will change your identity!***

If these things are true for you,

*. . . then God has brought you back into his family.
Fundamentally, your identity does not come from your
birth family, nationality, culture, social status, or
achievements.*

*. . . then God has made you holy. You are no longer a
slave to shameful desires. In the world, you are his royal
representative and not a rebel to God.*

Where do you belong?

If these things are true for you,

*. . . you belong to God's kingdom family. In this present
age, we are aliens and strangers. By grace, we belong to
Christ's Church, a people marked by faith, hope, and love.
As a community, we worship the one true God, studying
the Bible, praying to God, and serving those in need.*

Because of Christ, we truly have relationship.

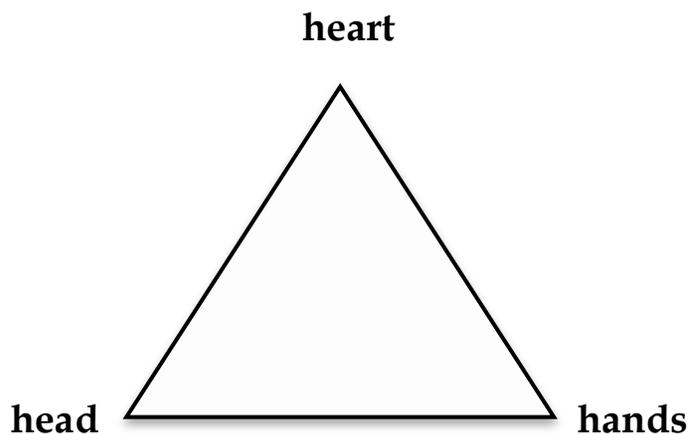
Since Jesus now rules as king,

*Are you willing to believe this good
news and follow him?*

If so,

***God reconciles you and God our
Father. Also, he gives us honor that
cannot be lost!***

*If you truly accept
this good news,
then God will change
your mind, head, and action !*



Change your mind

This story is the story of the entire world, including every nation, tribe, and individual. We share a common history, problem, and need. There is but one hope for us all. Idols and ideologies cannot save us.

We must see the world as God sees the world. We must call this story our own story. We must recognize as true what the one true God has done in history through Jesus Christ.

Accordingly, we forsake old principles and assumptions about how the world works and who is in charge. We must see others and ourselves through the lens of God's revealed word, which is found in the Bible.

God calls upon all people—including you—to repent of everything that does not reflect his holiness, anything that does not glorify his name.

Give your allegiance to Jesus Christ.

Have a New Heart

How do you know that you a **child of God**?

God's Spirit gives true believers a new heart. God's people seek to love him with all of their heart, mind, and strength. Like their heavenly Father, God's children delight to see God honored.

Naturally, their aim is to love others as themselves. They desire righteousness, purity, faithfulness, generosity, unity, among other virtues. God grows humility in their hearts rather than pride.

Christ is their greatest **joy**. They do not pursue the praise from people; instead they long to see the face of God.

Whose face do you seek?

Seek a Transformed Life

In humility, those who follow Christ regard themselves as his servants. Whether they eat, drink, or whatever they do, they want to do it for the glory of God. Christ's love compels genuine obedience; it is not merely the result of tradition or obligation.

God has given his children a **mission**. Because they bear his name, they should reflect his glory in the world. The story found in the Bible teaches them how to live a Christ-like life. For his sake, God's people gladly accept the cost of following Christ. This includes various kinds of suffering, including the loss of relationships and perhaps even one's life.

However, those who believe this good news with their hearts gain a new family--one which consists of all nations. Those who belong to Christ's Church love another, regarding themselves as members of Christ's Body, of which he is the head.

By the power of the Spirit, God's people proclaim God's kingdom. Together, they strive for holiness. In this way, they display a glimpse of the world as it will be when Christ returns to create a **new heaven and new earth**.