

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Do you feel alone? Does it seem like no one understands? Do you feel that you are left to endure the hardships of life without any help, encouragement, or comfort?

The hardships of life can make anyone feel isolated. Physical infirmities keep you at home and unable to interact with people socially. Emotional infirmities such as depression can leave you feeling alone even among the crowd. Even when you are surrounded by the people you love, you can still feel alone. It feels like no one fully grasps the severity of your circumstances. The isolation that has been forced on us because of COVID has only compounded the problem.

If you are struggling with life, you need to know that you are not alone. One of the greatest blessings of being part of the family of God is that you are never alone (Eph. 3.15). There are people in your life who love you and want what is best for you. There are brethren who will be there to help you in whatever you need at the drop of a hat. As a family, we are here for *“edification, exhortation, and comfort”* (1 Cor. 14.3).

Think about Elijah. This was a man who truly felt alone. Elijah is described as one *“with a nature like ours”* (James 5.17). In other words, he had the same kind of hopes and joys, anxieties and fears as you and I do. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah was going through a crisis. His people had forsaken God. He was being hunted by an evil king. To God, he cried out, *“the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”* Elijah felt alone. But God reminded him that he was not alone. There were still people who were faithful (Rom. 11.1-4).

Even if everyone around you has abandoned you, God is always there. He promised, *“I will never leave you nor forsake you”* (Heb. 13.5). If there is no one who truly understands, Jesus will always understand (Heb. 4.15,16). So when you are feeling lonely, reach out to those who love you. And pray to the One who promises to always be there for you.

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**February 6, 2022**

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### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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## THE MARRIAGE BED IS UNDEFILED

The sexual, intimate relationship that exists between two people has been well defined by the Bible. Let’s notice three parameters that God has placed in sexual intimacy.

God has designed sexual intimacy to be very special. In the beginning, God created Adam, then created a mate for Adam, a woman named Eve. God brought the two together and told them *“Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it”* (Gen. 1.28). Sex was an activity designed by God, and that makes it special.

God has designed sexual intimacy to be exclusive. It is to be enjoyed only by those within the boundaries of marriage. In Genesis 26.6-9, Abimelech understood that sex was to be between husband and wife. He understood that it was wrong to sleep with another man’s wife. Paul wrote that a man was to have his own wife (1 Cor. 7.2). He was not to have another man’s wife. He was not to have a woman who was not his wife. Sexual intimacy is exclusive.

God designed sexual intimacy to be more than physical. It is to be a deeply emotional experience. The Bible says that Adam *“knew”* his wife (Gen. 4.1). This is an activity that allows two people to know each other in a personal way that is not known by anyone else.

The Hebrew writer put it this way: *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Heb. 13.4).

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## WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS?

### ACTS 2:23

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you love a good murder mystery?
2. The death of Jesus is not an unsolved murder, but the motives can seem baffling. (Acts 3.14; 10.38; 2 Cor. 5.21; John 15.25)
3. Four coconspirators are named in the crucifixion of Jesus.

#### I. THE JEWS CRUCIFIED JESUS

##### A. ACTS 2.23: “*you have...crucified, and put to death.*”

1. Peter identifies the Jews as being responsible for the death of Jesus. (Acts 2.5,36; 3.14,15)
2. Jesus predicted that He would die because of the Jewish leaders. (Matt. 20.18)
3. Why did they kill Jesus? (Luke 23.5,14; Matt. 27.18)

##### B. Jesus let it happen. (Matt. 26.53; 27.40,42)

1. He could have escaped the cross. (Matt. 26.53; 27.40,42)
2. Why did Jesus allow the Jews to kill Him? (Eph. 5.2)

#### II. THE ROMANS CRUCIFIED JESUS

##### A. ACTS 2.23: “*you have taken by lawless hands*”

1. Jesus predicted His death by the Romans. (Matt. 20.19)
2. Pilate judged Jesus to be innocent. (Luke 23.4,14)
3. Why did Pilate kill Jesus? (Matt. 27.24; Mark 15.15)

##### B. Jesus let it happen.

1. Pilate was given authority. (John 19.10,11)
2. Why did Jesus allow the Romans to kill Him. (1 Pet 2.24)

#### III. GOD CRUCIFIED JESUS

##### A. ACTS 2.23: “*Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God*”

1. It was God who was ultimately responsible for the death of His Son. (Isa. 53.10; 2 Cor. 5.21; Heb. 5.7)
2. Why did God kill Jesus? (John 3.16)

##### B. Jesus let it happen.

1. Jesus still had free will. (John 10.17,18)
2. Jesus chose to submit Himself to God in obedience to His will. (Phil. 2.8)
3. Why did Jesus submit to God’s plan? (1 John 3.16)

**CONCLUSION:** You are the reason! (Gal. 2.20)

## HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN: CONFESSING

The plan of salvation involves things that God needed to employ. Being moved by His feelings for us (grace), He offered to us the gift of being made right through the death of His son (Rom. 5.17). As Jesus breathed His last, He said, “*It is finished*” (John 19.30). God’s part was done. But there are things that we are expected to do as well. In previous articles, we explored our need to hear the gospel, believe in Jesus, and repent of our past sins. But there is something else that God requires of us that we might receive His forgiveness: Confession.

Through the apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit tells us that “*with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*” (Rom. 10.10). The word “unto” translates the Greek word “eis” which always points forward to something not yet obtained or accomplished. This is the same word that is used by Jesus in Matthew 26.28 where He said that His blood “*is shed for the remission of sins.*” Just as the blood of Jesus resulted in the remission of sins, so our confession results in salvation.

What is this confession that we are expected to make in order to be saved? The word “confession” simply means that we admit or acknowledge something. There are two kinds of confessions described in the Bible. First, there is the confession of sins. James tells us to “*confess your trespasses one to another*” (James 5.16). We are to verbally acknowledge and admit that we have sinned. Second, there is the confession of faith. We are to verbally acknowledge and admit that we believe Jesus is the Christ. We learn in John explains that “*every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God*” (1 John 4.2).

What kind of confession is required for salvation? Let’s turn to Jesus for the answer: “*Therefore whoever confesses Me before me, Him I also will confess before My Father who is in heaven*” (Matt. 10.32). The kind of confession that brings salvation is the verbal acknowledgement that you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God. We have an example of this confession in the Ethiopian Eunuch. When asked to be baptized, Philip told him that he may be baptized if he believes. He responded by verbally confessing, “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*” (Acts 8.37).

God’s mercy is available to all. You can know the forgiveness of sins and become a Christian by confessing the name of Jesus before others.