

How can you approach God?

If you were to approach God face to-face, and He were to ask you 'why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say? Who would say something like:

"I was baptised, received Holy Communion at Mass every week, Confirmation, marriage, Holy orders.", "I tried to be a good person.", "I tried to live the commandments.", "I prayed every day, read the bible, prayed the rosary.", "I went out of my way to help people in need.", "I gave money to the poor."

These are all good things. But it is not the Good News (the Gospel) of how and why we can approach God. We can only approach God because of Jesus!

Hebrews says "Let us be **confident**, then, in **approaching** the throne of grace...." Through Jesus, you can approach God **confidently**.

Mark's Gospel says "The Son of Man [came] ... to give his life as a **ransom** for many." Through Jesus, you can approach God as **worthy**.

Isaiah says "By his suffering shall my servant **justify** many, taking their faults on himself." Through Jesus, you can approach God as **justified** (right with God).

Who here would like to be able to approach God more confidently, worthily, and justified (put right)?

God created us to have a personal relationship with him, now and forever. 1 John says "See what love the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called children of God; and that is what we are."

God wants you to know his love and experience His amazing plan for your life. Jeremiah 29 says "I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Do you always feel and know you are God's beloved, and that God has a plan for your life, all the time?

The reason why we don't is because our relationship is broken. The problem in my life, your life, and our lives is sin. Sin is turning away from God in what we have done and failed to do. Sin separates us from God. Sin makes it difficult to approach Him as a beloved child.

Imagine this hand represents me, you, and us; this hand represents Jesus, and this book represents sin. The effects of the separation caused by sin is guilt, shame, confusion, powerlessness, hopelessness, anxiety, confusion, rejection, abandonment, etc.

Sin has an even greater consequence: eternal separation from God.

Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death." Sin convinces us of the lie, and makes us feel, that we are dead to God.

This is not how God wants you to live! Our broken relationship can be restored through Jesus! Jesus came so that you can have "life to the full!" (Jn 10:10).

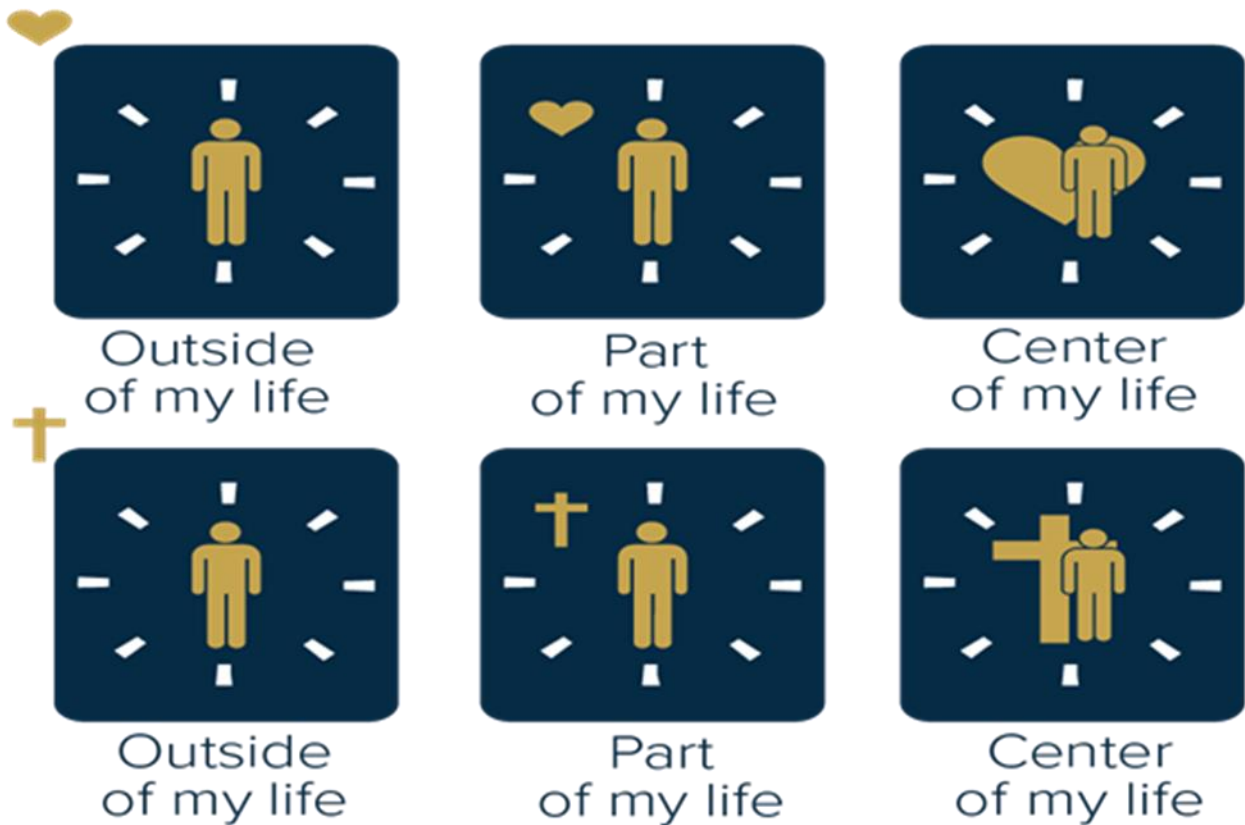
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life."

By his cross, Jesus took upon himself my, your, and our sins and sin's effects. You can be FREE from sin and FREE in relationship with God. His resurrection has brought you, me, and us, a new life of hope!

Jesus alone restores our relationship. He says in Jn 14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the father except through me."

See this relationship diagram:

The Relationships Diagram



The top three images represent levels of commitment in human relationships.

The 1st image is someone who is single; there is no romantic relationship in their life.

The 2nd image represents someone who is dating. This relationship is a part of their life, but commitment is limited.

The 3rd image represents someone who is married; there is an intimate relationship and a permanent mutual commitment.

Similarly, the bottom 3 images represent levels of commitment in a relationship with God.

The 1st image represents someone who does not have a relationship with Jesus, and Jesus is outside their life.

The 2nd image represents someone who acknowledges Jesus as part of their life, but has not completely committed to him. Jesus is not a priority and only one aspect of their life among others.

The 3rd image represents a Jesus centred relationship. This relationship is primary and central. It influences all other decisions and every aspect of their life, e.g. who you date/marry, your vocation, career, how you spend your leisure time, how you raise children, what you spend your money and time on, etc.

Which image best represents your relationship with God today?

Which image would you like to have represent your relationship with God?

Jesus desires to be at the centre of your life as Lord, saviour, forgiver, healer, redeemer, and friend.

Rev. 3:20 says "Behold I stand at the door and knock; anyone who hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with you and you with me." Jesus says that 'anyone' can pray this. He promises he 'will' come in. Do you want him to come in right now? Do you want to be able to approach God **confidently, worthily, and justified**, like Jesus?

Prayer

Father, I believe that I can approach You confidently, not through my own merits, but through Jesus.

I'm sorry for the times I've turned from you, and have broken my relationship with you through my sins.

Thank you for sending your son Jesus, who took on my sins on the cross and restored our relationship.

Jesus, I open the door of my heart to you now. I invite you in. Be the centre of my life as my Lord, saviour, and friend.

Help me to live this Good News and love my neighbour as myself. Amen!