

Day. The Bible is clear that if we have broken these Commandments we have no part in the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21). Furthermore, God is angry with the wicked every day, and He will destroy Law-breakers in hell forever. Hell is not simply dying or temporary punishment, like a time-out. Hell is experiencing an eternity of God's wrath which you rightly deserve (Revelation 20:15; Mark 9:42-48).

It is strikingly obvious that you are in need of forgiveness from your sins. But, finding forgiveness from sins is only part of what you need. Your problem is even greater than having done wicked things in your life. Your problem is that you continue to do wicked things and that you love sinning. In other words, committing sin is part of your nature. You are a sinner. It is your identity.

The Solution

You have two problems. First, you have committed sins against a holy God. Second, you are a sinner by nature. The solution to both of these problems is found in Jesus Christ. Where we failed and rebelled, Christ succeeded and acted righteously. We have committed countless sins against God, but Jesus never sinned, not even once.

You deserve to be punished by God because of your wicked thoughts and actions, but Christ took that punishment upon Himself when He died on the cross. In a divine transaction, Christ took your sins upon Himself and gave you His perfect righteousness. He was tortured and killed in your place so that you can have eternal life in the loving presence of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

When you repent (turn away, confess, hate and forsake) of your sins and trust in Christ to save

you, God forgives you and sets you free from your bondage to sin because of what Christ has done for you. In other words, God takes away your sin and gives you a new nature.

A true Christian is not only someone who is forgiven, but also someone who lives for righteousness and holiness because God has changed his or her heart (2 Corinthians 5:17).

We live in a world where there is so much hypocrisy. People will say and do anything to be popular or to manipulate others. Unfortunately, many people have used the Name of Christ and the Faith of Christianity as a means of gaining popularity or as a way to win some kind of favor with God. But, these people who profess Christianity and live like the devil are not true representatives of Christ. The Bible does not simply instruct people to call themselves Christians. The Bible calls sinners to true Repentance and faith in Christ so that people can experience freedom from the slavery and guilt of sin and enter into an obedient and joyful relationship with God.

God is interested in more than a believer-like fan, who celebrates Him at a distance. He wants an intimate relationship which affects every area of your life.

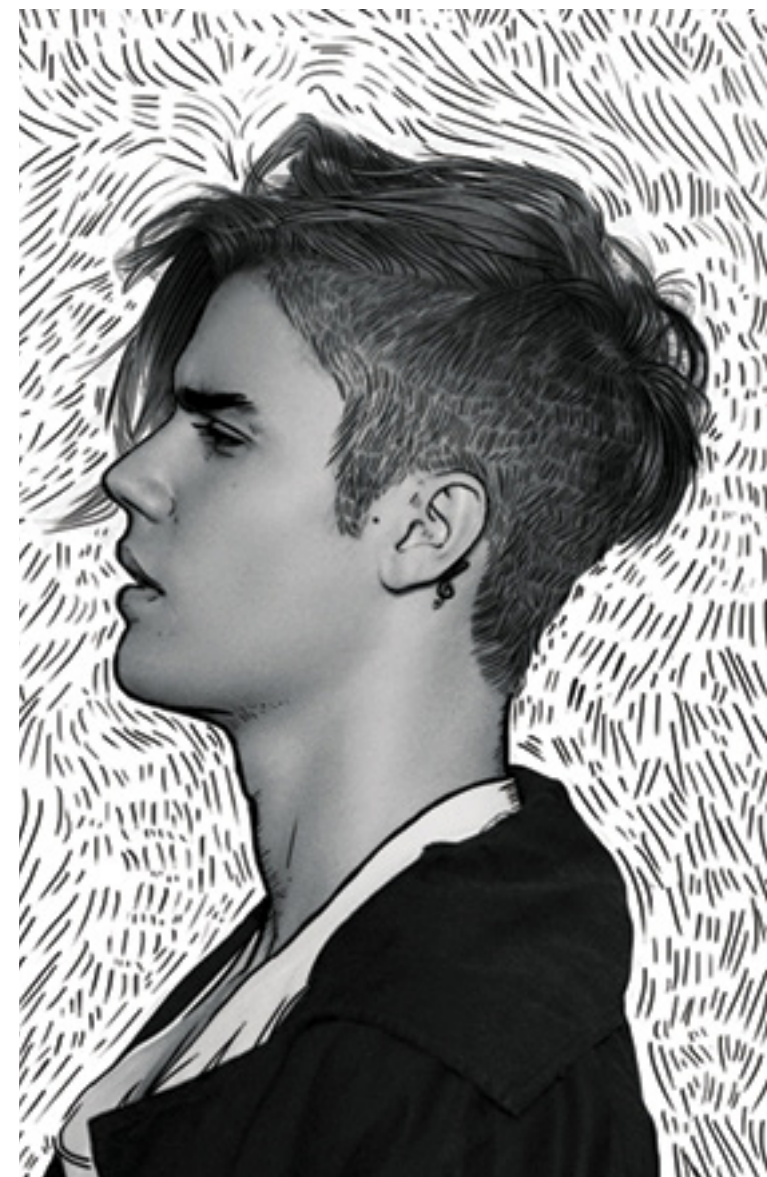
“Whoever calls upon the Name of the Lord will be Saved.” Romans 10:13

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BELIEBER?



Introducing Justin Bieber

In 2007, a record company stumbled upon the Canadian-born, Justin Bieber. Despite his mother wanting him to become a Gospel singer, the 13-year-old sky-rocketed to world-wide fame singing pop songs with a mix of R&B. Justin Bieber has sold over 100 million records, making him the best-selling male Canadian artist and one of the world's best-selling music artists.

Are you a Belieber?

Followers of Bieber fondly think of themselves as “*beliebers*”, a word used to describe an avid fan of the young musician. The term mixes the word believer with Bieber. One's beliefs will ultimately define one as a person. For some, following Bieber may be a part of their identity, for others, it may just be a fun expression of enjoying Bieber's music. Either way, this leaves a very important question for people who admire, celebrate, and are influenced by Bieber to ask: *What does Justin Bieber believe in?*

Bieber's Beliefs

His mother's faith certainly impacted Bieber and he has often made reference to his Christian upbringing.

However, over the years, Justin has sent a very mixed message about his faith out to the public. Despite recent reports of Justin's conversion and baptism, his overall public conduct is questionable to say the least. One wonders what would happen if people decide to “*accept*” the Christian message and follow Bieber as an example of Christianity.

Of course, it is easy to point fingers at someone

who claims to be a Christian and point out all his flaws. But, who of us can say that we are without any flaws? In fact, the Bible puts it more bluntly than that. We are not simply flawed human beings; we are sinners. All of us.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

Are We Really That Bad?

In a world full of terrorism, war, brutality, destructive criminals and Hollywood scandals, it is easy for us to compare ourselves with the other people who seem to be greater sinners than we are. We tend to think that if we can compare ourselves to someone else who is really bad, like a drug-dealer or a very promiscuous celebrity, we will seem like pretty good people. The problem with this type of thinking is that it is self-deceiving. We determine our own standard of good and bad, right and wrong, so that we won't look like the sinners we really are.

What is the Standard?

There is only one standard of right and wrong, and that is the Standard God has given us. He is the one who will judge us, and He will judge us by His Holy Law. We would do well to find out what that Law is and whether or not we have broken it.

Without even mentioning it, many of us actually have a sense of God's Law written on our hearts. If I had to ask you if it is ok to murder, cheat on your spouse, or steal someone's car, you would probably say no. However, God's law does not *only* deal with actions that have big social consequences. God's Law also deals with our thoughts and intentions. So, let us take a look at what that Law says and examine ourselves with honesty and openness.

Have you ever told a lie? Only a liar can answer “*no*” to this question. Consider it further, how many lies do you think you have told in your life? Perhaps too many to count. This makes you a liar.

Have you ever stolen something, even if it is something small, perhaps when you were younger? Maybe you have stolen sweets, taken money from someone's wallet or pirated a song from Justin Bieber? This makes you a thief!

Have you ever committed adultery? Many people do not believe that they have broken this Commandment. Jesus said that even desiring a sexual relationship with someone you are not married to is sinful. It is adultery of the heart

“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Matthew 5:28

Have you ever murdered someone? Perhaps you think you are safe from breaking that Command as well. Jesus said that calling someone a fool will land you in dangerous judgment before God. Murder starts with hatred in the heart.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’ But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... Whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.”
Matthew 4:21-22

What Does All this Mean?

We have only looked at four out the Ten Commandments God has given us. If you have broken these Commandments, you are a lying, thief and a murderous adulterer at heart. You have to face a holy, righteous God on Judgment