

ESSENTIAL

WHO WE ARE

AND

WHAT WE DO

ON MISSION



2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.





2 Corinthians 5:11-21

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!





2 Corinthians 5:11-21

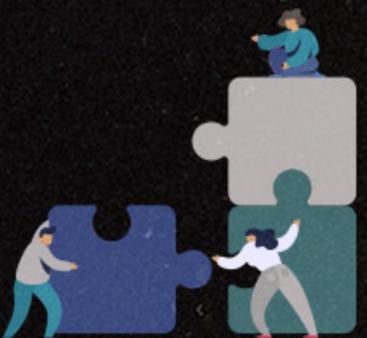
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

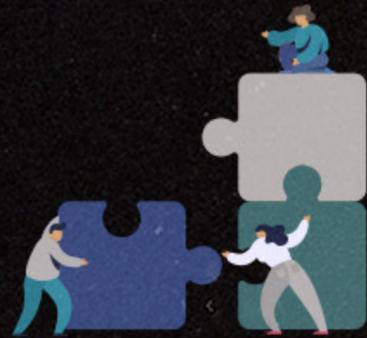




2 Corinthians 5:11-21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,
so that in him we might become the
righteousness of God.

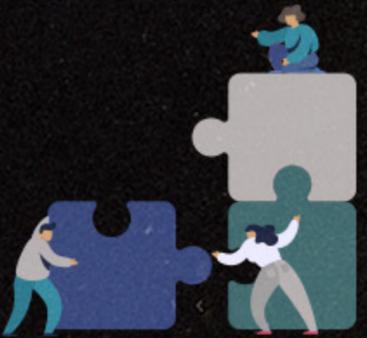






ACT 1: CREATED

God is the author and sustainer of all creation. We are the pinnacle of God's creation and were designed to be in relationship with Him. As such, every human life is of incredible dignity and worth.



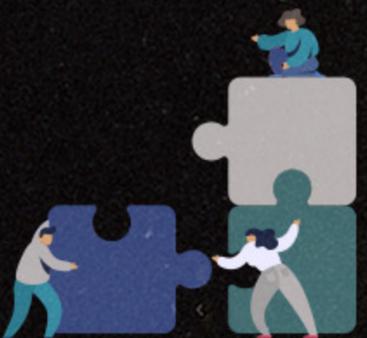


THE WHO

Father —Romans 1:19-20

Spirit —Genesis 1:2

Son —John 1:1-3

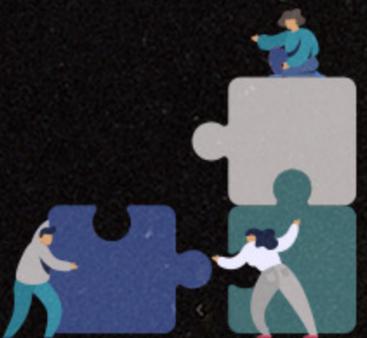




THE WHAT

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

—Colossians 1:15-17





THE HOW

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. —Genesis 1:3







ACT 2: BROKEN

The power of sin existed before Adam and Eve, but entered the world through them, as they rebelled against God and his commands. The consequences of this rebellion are visible in every aspect of life, as our relationships with God, with each other, and even with our planet are fractured.

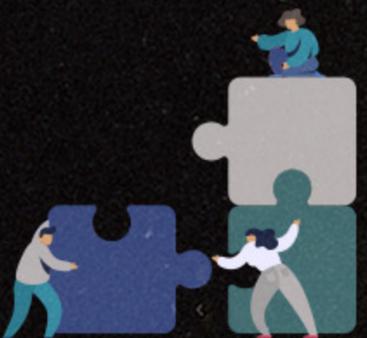




THE REALITY OF SIN

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

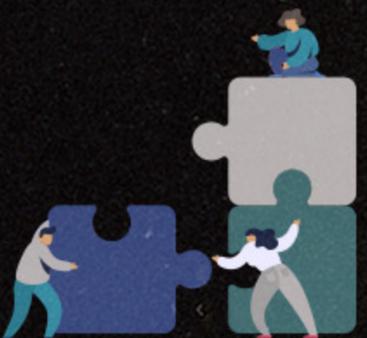
—Romans 3:22-24





THE REALIZATION OF SIN

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

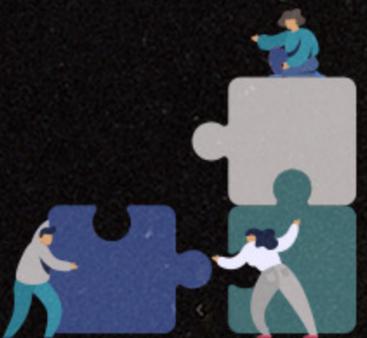


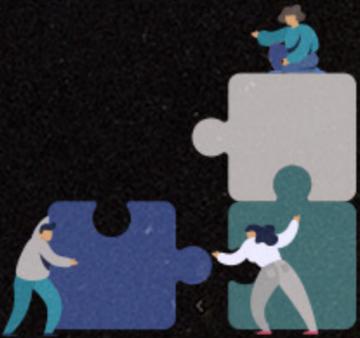


THE REALIZATION OF SIN

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

—Psalm 51:1-5

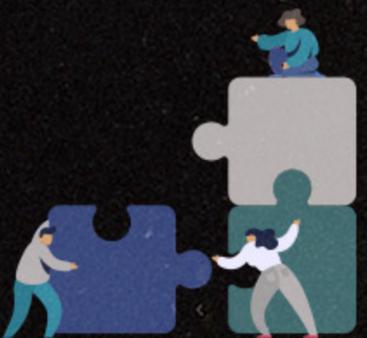






ACT 3: GATHERED

God did not leave us wallowing in the lostness and distress of our sin. He calls out a people to himself and makes a covenant with them. He provides a guide to covenant life with Him (the Law) and calls the people back to obedience through the Prophets. Finally, he provides a way of dealing with sin, through the Day of Atonement, which foreshadowed the forgiveness freely and fully available through Jesus.





Hebrews 9:7-15

But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able





Hebrews 9:7-15

to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

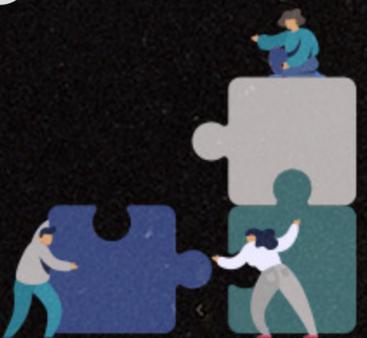
But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.





Hebrews 9:7-15

He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God,

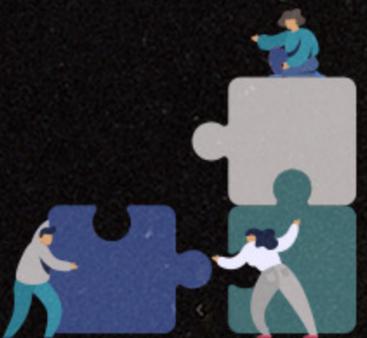


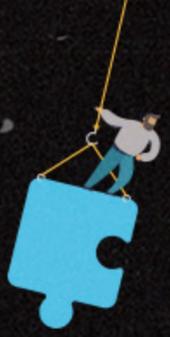


Hebrews 9:7-15

cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

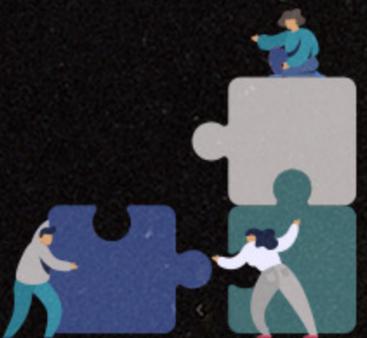
For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance— now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.





ACT 4: COMMISSIONED

We are not called to be a reservoir, but a river of God's blessing. We are commissioned as Christ's ambassadors to share his offer of peace and restoration. We are to live missionally and take the gospel from our homes, to our neighborhoods, and to the ends of the earth, that all people may have the chance to experience the hope and life offered through Jesus.





John 20:21

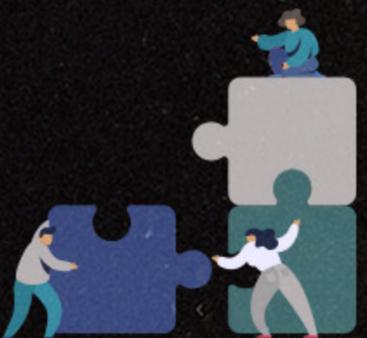
Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”





Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.



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