

God Loves You

Our world is based on God's love (See [God Is Love](#).) Hence, our view of God and our life should be based on his love for us. Yet many fear following God means our lives will be restricted by his rules and, worse yet, that he may punish us for breaking those rules. But regardless of our beliefs, he leaves choosing what we want to do up to us. God does not create consequences as punishment. We determine consequences by our own choices. Many are okay with that way of living and never move beyond it. The choices may not seem bad at first because they feel right or provide a moment's pleasure, but eventually they catch up to you and you wish you had never started down that path. God is sad when we choose what's bad for us. He loves us and wants the best for us. He doesn't care about what you did that led to bad consequences. His perfect love forgives us of any of our poor choices. In fact, his love pursues us to turn to him to avoid future bad choices.

The problem is, as humans, we don't really know what's good or bad for us. Wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have to trust in our own knowledge to make choices that are good for us? Not only that, but also get help dealing with the results of poor choices? We'd first have to know what's good or bad for us; and then have the power to act on what's good. Fortunately, God has a plan for that. The simple answer is, "Love God." Truly loving someone requires surrendering to their will. (See [Love Is Surrender](#).) As we surrender, we want to fulfill their desires. God has already told us what he desires. He became human (as Jesus) to show us how we could love him. Understanding what the Bible has to say about Jesus shows us that he is the way to a life where choices can always be good. We just have to stop doing things our own way and depend on his Spirit to help us make the right choice. It's like a no-brainer: Do things that we think are good for us or do things that our loving creator knows are good for us?

(See the photo caption verses in [Becoming Christian](#).)

S.A. Pierce

Thanksgiving 2026