

HOW CAN WE MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

How did it get so messed up?

I. THE REASON: we've all s _____

"Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death." Rom. 5:12 (NCV)

"There is not a single person in all the earth who is always good and never sins." Eccl. 7:20 (NLT)

II. THE RESULT: WE LIVE in a f _____ w _____

1. NATURAL d _____ and d _____

"Creation was condemned to lose its purpose..." Rom. 8:20 (TEV)

"Creation is confused..." (CEV)

"All of creation groans with pain..." Rom. 8:22 (TEV)

2. PHYSICAL d _____ and d _____

"Our physical body is becoming older & weaker." 2 Cor. 4:16 (NCV)

"Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man." 1 Cor. 15:22 (NLT)

"All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay."

Rom. 8:21 (NLT)

3. EMOTIONAL s _____ and d _____

They are distressed, because they had been confident; they arrive there, only to be disappointed. Job 6:20 NIV

"I realize I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it." Rom. 7:18 (Mes)

4. RELATIONAL d _____ and d _____

they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they strung fig leaves together to cover themselves Gen.3:7 NLT

5. SPIRITUAL d _____ and d _____

"I am like a caravan, lost in the desert searching for water." Job 6:18 (CEV)

They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. Eph.4:18 Mes

III. THE RATIONALE: WHY GOD LETS IT CONTINUE

1. TO GIVE US A C _____

"Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, and between life and death." Deut. 30:15 (TEV)

"In due season God will judge everything man does, both good and bad." Eccl. 3:17 (LB)

2. TO SHOW OUR N _____ F _____ A S _____

"God allows people to continue in their sinful ways so He can test them. That way, they can see for themselves that they are no better than animals." Eccl. 3:18 (NLT)

"When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway." Rom. 7:19 (NLT)

3. TO DEMONSTRATE H _____ G _____

"The Lord isn't being slow about His promise to return, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so He is giving more time for everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

IV. MY RESPONSE:

1. RECEIVE G _____ g _____ d _____

"Through the sin of one man death began to rule because of that one man. But now, how much greater is the result of what was done by one other man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with Him will rule in life through Christ." Rom. 5:17 (TEV)

2. REMEMBER THIS PLACE IS T _____

"I am here on earth for just a little while." Psalm 119:19 (TEV)

"This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven." Heb. 13:14 (LB)

3. REJECT m _____ m _____ s _____

"My people have done two evil things: They have forsaken Me – the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!" Jer. 2:13 (NLT)

4. REACH OUT WITH GOD'S L _____

"Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving message into the night." Phil. 2:15 (Mes)

