

**1 Corinthians 15:28**  
(ESV)

28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him **who put all things in subjection under him**, that God may be all in all.

**REVIEW**

**How Fully Do We Live Life in Christ?**

**Pascal's wager** is a philosophical argument presented by the seventeenth-century French philosopher, theologian, mathematician, and physicist, Blaise Pascal (1623–1662). It posits that human beings wager with their lives that God either exists or does not.

Pascal argues that a rational person should live as though God exists and seek to believe in God. If God does not exist, such a person will have only a finite loss (some pleasures, luxury, etc.), whereas if God does exist, he stands to receive infinite gains (as represented by eternity in Heaven) and avoid infinite losses (an eternity in Hell).

**Mark 3:22-30**  
(ESV)

*Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit*

22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." 23 And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 **If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.** 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

28 "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

**Luke 12:8-12**  
(ESV)

*Acknowledge Christ Before Men*

8 "And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge

before the angels of God, 9 but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God. 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 **And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.**"

**Romans 8:28**  
(ESV)

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**Isaiah 66:2**  
(ESV)

2

All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things came to be,  
declares the Lord.

But this is the one to whom I will look:

he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.

**1 Corinthians 15:28**  
(ESV)

28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him **who put all things in subjection under him**, that God may be all in all.

**2 Corinthians 9:8**  
(ESV)

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

**Ephesians 1:11**  
(ESV)

11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will**,

**Colossians 1:17**  
(ESV)

17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**2 Peter 3:11**  
(ESV)

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

Matthew Bates:

“...if a person becomes so depraved that she or he can no longer identify evil or good correctly, then the eternal spiritual risk for that person cannot possibly be overstated...” so Jesus issues a warning against blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (*i.e.*, the muddling of right and wrong, good and evil, etc.) [Bates, *Salvation by Allegiance Alone*, note 23, pp. 123-124]

**Genesis 44:4**  
(ESV)

4 They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, “Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good?’

**Deuteronomy 30:11-15**  
(ESV)

*The Choice of Life and Death*

11 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 **But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.**

15 “**See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.**

**1 Kings 3:9**  
(ESV)

9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” [Solomon’s response to God.]

**Isaiah 5:20**  
(ESV)

20  
**Woe to those who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweetness  
and sweet for bitter!**

FAITH, TRUST, ENGAGEMENT

**Charles Spurgeon on Participation in “Faith.”**

"It is not the life buoy on board the ship that saves the man when he is drowning, nor is it his belief that it is an excellent and successful invention. No! He must have it around his loins or his hand upon it, or else he will sink."

**Ephesians 2:8**  
(ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

UNION AS THE OUTWORKING OF FAITH

**Ephesians 2:8**  
(ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

Bates:

Allegiance > Union (with Christ and His Body) > Enacted Loyalty

COVENANT AND FAITH

Westminster Confession of Faith  
Chapter 7 - Of God’s Covenant With Man  
Paragraph 3

3. Man by his fall having made himself incapable of life by that covenant [the Covenant of Works], the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace: wherein he freely offered unto sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ, requiring of them faith in him that they may be saved, and promising to give unto all those that are ordained unto life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20**  
(ESV)

19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you **life and death, blessing and curse**. Therefore **choose life**, that you and your offspring may live, 20 **loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the**

land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

**Rom. 8:3**

(KJV)

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”

**Galatians 3:21**

(KJV)

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for **if there had been a law given which could have given life**, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

**Matthew 5:17**

(ESV)

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

The “new heart,” the “heart of flesh” is what allows men to respond differently to law.

**1 Samuel 15:22**

(ESV)

22 And Samuel said,

“**Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,**

as in obeying the voice of the Lord?  
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to listen than the fat of rams.

**Psalms 51:17**

(ESV)

17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**1 Timothy 1:5**

(ESV)

5 The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

**John 3:16**

(KJV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Rom. 10:6, 9**

(KJV)

But the **righteousness which is of faith** speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above)...9 That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27**

(KJV)

A **new heart** also will I give you, and a **new spirit** will I put within you: and I will **take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.** 27 And I will put **my spirit** within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**John 6:44-45**

(KJV)

**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.** 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. **Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**

**Berkhof (Summary of Christian Doctrine)**

**But its exercise [faith's exercise] is a human activity, to which the children of God are repeatedly exhorted, Rom. 10:9; I Corinthians 2:5; Col. 1:23; I Tim. 1:5; 6:11.**

**1 Corinthians 2:5**

(ESV)

5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the **power** of God.

**Romans 10:9**

(ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

**Colossians 1:23**

(ESV)

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a **minister.**

**1 Corinthians 12:3-11**  
(ESV)

3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. 4 **Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.** 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.** 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the **utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, 10 to another the **working of miracles**, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Galatians 5:22**  
(ESV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Ephesians 2:8**  
(ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

**"LIFE" IS THE GOSPEL**

**Romans 1:1-5**  
(ESV)

Greeting

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus,

called to be an apostle,

set apart for the gospel of God,

2 which he promised beforehand

through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

3 concerning his Son,

who was descended from David according to the flesh

4 and was declared to be the Son of God **in power**

according to the Spirit of holiness

by his resurrection from the dead, **Jesus Christ our Lord,**

5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship

to bring about the obedience of faith

for the sake of his name among all the nations,

**Acts 3:19-21**  
(ESV)

19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the **time for restoring all the things** about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

**Acts 2:36**  
(ESV)

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that **God has made him both Lord and Christ**, this Jesus whom you crucified."

**Matthew 4:17**  
(ESV)

17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, **"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."**