

HOW GOD ACCEPTS US

ACCEPTING THE UNACCEPTABLE

*"To the praise of the glory of his grace,
wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."*

~ Ephesians 1:6

1. "Will You Accept Christ?"

- a. There is a problem with Christians spreading gospel euphemisms and circumlocutions
- b. *"Have you accepted Christ?"* is not preaching the gospel that saves
- c. You are destined to fail with this sort of evangelism method.
- d. You can accept God, Christ, the Bible, right division, etc. and not be saved
- e. Salvation is not you accepting God, but God accepting you – Ps 119:108, Jer 14:10-12
- f. Notice this is exactly backwards. The issues that divide are fundamental.

2. The Lord is Not Trying to Be Accepted

- a. Bible is silent about us accepting God - *"as many as received him"* – John 1:12 is used
- b. The truth of God persuades us, but we're not the Judge - Act 26:28, 2Co 5:11, Ro 14:5
- c. The Lord is not sitting in the courtroom of your heart pleading to be accepted.
- d. The Judge does not ask, "Do you accept my judgment?", "Will you accept me?"
- e. The Lord was not trying to be acceptable to men – John 5:41-44, John 12:47-48
- f. Jesus wasn't merely meek and mild, but confrontational – Mt 22:15-18, Lk 11:37-54
- g. If Jesus were running for election to be the Messiah, he lost considerably.
- h. Making God acceptable requires removing parts of the Bible, His character, and actions
- i. Paul was not trying to persuade men, but God who was his authority - Gal 1:10

3. Who Must Be Accepted

- a. The question will not be whether you have accepted him, but if he has accepted you
- b. The works (good and bad) of a sinner are unacceptable to God - Rom 3:10, 3:21, 3:23
- c. On what basis does God accept the sinner's prayer? – Luke 18:10-14... how?
- d. Ministries are dedicated to convincing the world that God is acceptable, but Rom 1:21
- e. Accepting the argument, they are counted as converts, not knowing the whole story
- f. Their faith is in an argumentation, their salvation depends on whether they deem it so
- g. Jesus Christ is Lord God, and Saviour and there is none else beside him.

4. We Can Be Accepted in Christ

- a. We need Christ because we need to be acceptable to God for salvation to life
- b. We need Christ's cross, blood, death, resurrection to propitiate (be made acceptable)
- c. The gospel of Christ lets God be just and the justifier – Rom 3:25-26
- d. When you trust Christ's finished work and you will be accepted by God – Rom 4:5, 5:1
- e. The only way (in any religion) that man is made acceptable to God is in Christ
- f. We are accepted in the one God loves: the Beloved Son of God by grace - Eph 1:6-7
- g. The gates of heaven are not open to all who accept Christ, they are open to all who are accepted in Christ.