

In the Name of Jesus

**The
Real
God
Treats You as
The
Real
Man**

To God alone be Glory

He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves,
but for him who died
and was raised for them.
2 Cor. 5:15

Chaplain Stephen H. Funck
Baltimore City Detention Center
401 East Eager Street
Baltimore MD 21202
410-209-4089



A real man is in charge of his life. He chooses and controls his own path. He is the captain of his soul. The Bible teaches that man has freedom of the will. Good News!!??

In one way that is good and in another very bad. You are the Man. You are responsible. God knows everything, takes everything into account, judges fairly, to whom much is given much is expected.

God is pure love, the essence of light. He loves to create all kinds of things, beings, life. He is totally good. Evil is not His creation. Spiritual beings twisted the free will He gave, use it against Him and try to despoil us and the world we live in.

We experience the conflict between God and evil. God could have destroyed everything, started over fresh. He chose in Love to save, redeem, us and His creation.

He cannot force us into holiness, perfection without ending our freedom of will. If He made us robots, how sweet would be our thanks and love? He is love and He desires our love. What makes the love of another person sweet to us is the knowledge that it is freely given. Love is always gift. It cannot be bought or required.

You cannot decide to go to heaven. You are imperfect, defective, human, unfit, mortal. Heaven is total perfection, holy, eternal. You can not make yourself fit, qualified for heaven. God de-

cided to offer His holy perfection to you in His only begotten Son. You can accept God's gift on His terms or turn it down, but you cannot accept it on your own terms. It is non negotiable. God offers you the gift of pure Love.

God treats you as the real man. The real man treats God as the real God. God is the creator of all, the ruler of the entire universe, all powerful, all knowing. He knows you do what you want. You decide what you want to be interested in. If you decide to, are interested in God and heaven, you can check it out. God will, when and how He knows it is best, guide you along His way.

The Real Man does not need The Real God to hold his hand and lead him baby step by baby step. You get up, go to the store and pick up what you want. Momma does not put food in your mouth. You can look for God, ask, seek, knock, talk to His people, go to His Houses, listen, think about, read, pray.

Ants have brains and hearts. We are like them and can somewhat understand them. God is something totally other, beyond us. He is utter reality. We are next to nothing.

The Love of God within us transforms us, remakes us to be bearers, reflectors of His love. He loves so we would love Him. He loves so we would pass His love on to the rest of His creation, to your brothers and sisters, enemies, still afflicted by the darkness of evil.

He calls us out of the darkness of evil into the light of love. It is both a re-creation, new birth and a growing into the fullness. He calls and draws us to Himself by His Word, by the people and events around us. We can respond or not., our choice, our consequences.

The darkness of evil is deep powerful, deadly. Jesus invites you, "Take up your cross and follow me." By His death, by taking our suffering, pain, evil, sin, He ended the power of evil and death. All who believe in Him have His Spirit. They participate in His Victory. They know the suffering and death that comes to them also is overcome by Him.

How we act, what we do and say, how we treat others reveals the presence and power of His Spirit within us. "He died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them." 2 Cor. 5:15

This life, now, is, the beginning of heaven for those in Christ, the beginning of hell for those who do not accept God's love.