# 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. The choices may not seem bad at first because they feel right or provide a moment's pleasure, but eventually they catch up to us and we wish we had never started down that path.

Most of the world's pain and suffering is caused by poor choices made by humans.* God is sad when we choose what's bad for us. He loves us and wants the best for us. He doesn't care what your choices led to. His perfect love forgives us of the results of any 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 the long term consequences of our choices. People look to astrology, fortune tellers, etc. for help, but wouldn't it be nice if we didn't have to worry about making the right choice? Not only that, but also get help dealing with the results of poor choices? We'd just have to know if a choice is good and be able to act on it.

Fortunately, God has a plan for that. The simple answer is, "Love God." Truly loving someone requires surrendering your ways to theirs. (See *Love Is Surrender*.) As we surrender, we want to fulfill their desires. God 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 and following his example results in a life where choices can always be good. We need to stop acting on our own and let his Spirit guide us.

Don't waste your life based on choices *you think* are good for you. Trust in your *creator* who *knows* what's best for you. (See the photo caption verses in *Becoming Christian*.)

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*Read a summary of C.S. Lewis' view on the problem of pain.