

7. Concerning Man's Response to God

A. PBCC Statement

Every person has the opportunity and the obligation to respond to God. All response to Him is initiated by God as he draws people to Himself. Those who repent of their sinfulness, trust in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as full payment for their sin, and receive Him as Lord and Savior, are forever reconciled to God the Father, and they become a new creation in Jesus Christ.

[John 1:9-13; 3:16; 6:44; Acts 13:48; Rom 1:18-20; 10:8-9; Eph 2:8-9; 2 Cor 4:6; 1 John 5:11-13]

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:9-13)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:44)

And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. (Rom 1:18-20)

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, 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. (Rom 10:8-9)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Eph 2:8-9)

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 4:6)

¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:11-13)

B. Discussion

The Gospel: the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus: you killed him but God raised him!
Response: repent and be baptized; believe.

- Repent: recognize the need
- Believe: identify by faith with what God has done in Christ. Our faith is in the faithfulness of Christ.
- Baptism: participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Result:

- “in Christ”: God places us “in Christ”
- Spirit-filled: enabling life in the new age
- sins forgiven

Reconciliation

- to God in Christ through the Spirit
- to one another (esp. Jew–Gentile): we are the new humanity