

NEWWORLD

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THE ACHE

The world is messed up; that's obvious. But what's more revealing is the human response: how do you feel about this kind of world?

No normal person thinks that suffering, violence and oppression are good things. No one throws a party for the bloodbath in Darfur, when a child is infected with AIDS, or when the Towers fell in New York.

So what does this mean? **Most people ache for a better world.**

But our universal ache speaks of something more. The storyline of the Bible indicates the reason we have this ache is because such a better world once existed and will exist again.

DESIGNED FOR GOOD

In the Christian worldview, God created a good world and it worked beautifully. All creation was under his leadership and enjoyed Him as the source of life.¹

On a bigger level, The world God created was designed to take care of us and we were designed to flourish in human communities as we cared for the world.²

On a relational level, People were designed to love and serve one another.³

On a personal level, we were each designed to live in a trusting and intimate relationship with God as our just and loving leader.⁴

The world and all that's in it was designed for good.

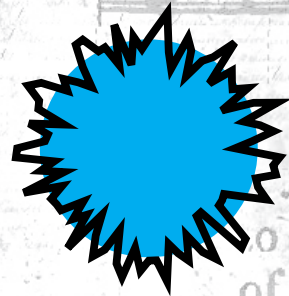
But what happened to this good world? How did we get to where we are today?

1 - Genesis 1:31 / 2 - Genesis 1:28 / 3 - Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18 / 4 - Genesis 1:26

DESIGNED FOR GOOD



BIGGER
RELATIONAL
PERSONAL



DAMAGED BY EVIL

When we lived under God's leadership, we experienced a good world. But we rejected God's leadership, took charge, put ourselves in the center and essentially became our own god. By doing so, we broke our relationship with God, separating ourselves from the source of life, leaving our selves and our world in a state of death.⁵ On every level, we have become corrupt. We see evidence of this corruption all around us.

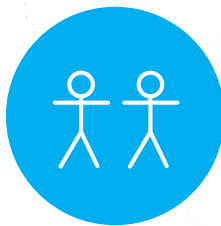
On the bigger level, we damage our world. We destructively use the world and the people in it for our own benefit instead of serving them. We see this in slavery, injustice, oppression, genocide, etc. **Almost half of all those trafficked worldwide for sex and domestic slavery are children under the age of 18, about 1 million every year.**

On a relational level, we damage one another. We harmfully use people instead of serving them. We see this in conflicts, objectification of people and groups, alienation, bitterness, abuse, lust, anger, etc.⁶

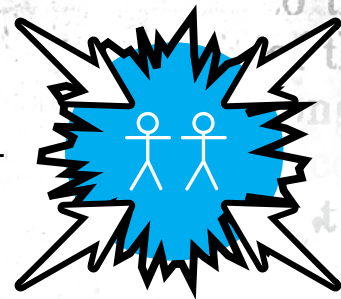
And on a personal level, we damage ourselves, and our relationship with God. We refuse to come under his leadership.⁷

We all suffer under these realities. We all contribute to the problem.⁸ Our corruption compels us toward evil even as we try to do good. Education, technology, and government never get to the root of the problem. **In fact, 27 million people live in slavery around the world today, more slaves than were trafficked in the transatlantic slave trade.** The Bible says that God "has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right."⁹ Not only will he judge the evil people out there, he has seen our own corrupt sides and will hold us accountable. **We – and the world – are damaged by evil.**

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BIGGER
RELATIONAL
PERSONAL

RESTORED FOR BETTER

But God loved the world too much to leave it this way.

In His great love God responds to the injustice and corruption and sends Jesus into the world.¹⁰

Jesus did three things:

Identified: Jesus became one of us, identifying with us by living in a damaged world (though he never contributed to the damage).¹¹

Owned: Jesus died on the cross, owning the judgment we deserve for the corruption of the world and the corruption in our heart.¹² (*Write the word "Owned" under "Identified"*)

Overcame: Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming death and unleashing power to restore our damaged world.

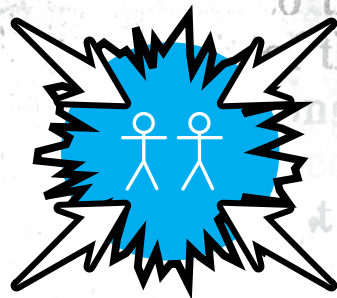
Jesus came to restore the world and everything in it to what God intended.

10 - John 3:16 / 11 - Philippians 2:6-7, 2 Cor 5:21 / 12 - Philippians 2:8, Romans 3:25-26

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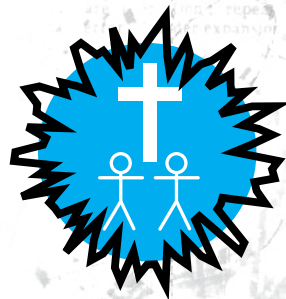


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BIGGER
RELATIONAL
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IDENTIFIED
OWNED
OVERCAME

PART 4: SENT TO HEAL

Jesus calls us to follow Him as he heals the damage in the world.¹³ By following him, we become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world¹⁴

On the bigger level, Jesus has the power to restore our damaged world. He invites us to follow him together into his world to expose corruption and bring justice and to love joyfully which is what we are doing here today by engaging the issue of human trafficking.¹⁵

On the relational level, Jesus has the power to restore our relationships. He invites us to follow him by serving, loving, and forgiving each other.¹⁶

On the personal level, Jesus has the power to restore our relationship with God. He invites us to follow him by coming under his leadership. And what does this look like?¹⁷

We follow him by:

Identifying: We identify with Jesus' work: by believing his death and resurrection broke the cycle of corruption in us and in the world.¹⁸

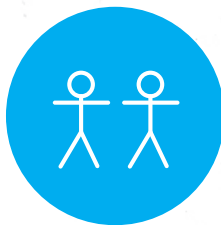
Owning: We own our own responsibility for the damaged world and receive his forgiveness.¹⁹

Overcoming: We overcome the damage in our world by committing to follow Jesus into his mission to the world. God gives us the power to follow Jesus by giving us his Spirit and a community of people who also follow Jesus.²⁰

With these resources, Jesus is calling us to be sent together to heal the world.

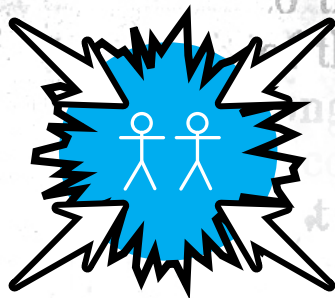
13 - Acts 3:6-7 / 14 - Matthew 5:14-16, John 20:21-22 / 15 - Micah 6:8, Luke 4:18-19 / 16 - Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 4:10-11
17 - Romans 5:10-11, Mark 1:17, 2:14 / 18 - John 3:17-18, Galatians 2:20-21, Romans 10:9 / 19 - 1 John 1:9, Acts 10:43
20 - Acts 1:8, Matthew 5:14-16

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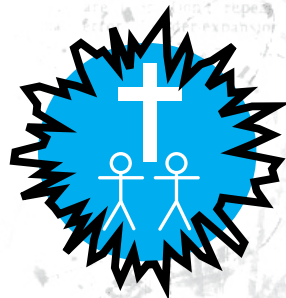


SENT TO HEAL



IDENTIFIED
OWNED
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SO, WHICH ONE OF THESE THREE WORLDS WOULD YOU PLACE YOURSELF IN?

- In the first, everything's fine and the world is OK.
- In the second, you see and experience the damage and corruption in the world.
- The third world focuses on what Christ has done for us and the world and says you might have some understanding of what Christ did
- In the fourth, you are following Jesus with his power and community to heal the world.

YOUR RESPONSES

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 1, the world is perfect; but we have seen that it is hard to reconcile this with the suffering in the world. How do you reconcile these things?

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 2, you experience damage and corruption in the world and Jesus is calling you to follow him.

Would you like to become a follower of Jesus today?

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. Let us pray together using "A Prayer Response to Jesus".

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 3, you have some understanding of what Jesus did and he is calling you to follow him.

Would you like to become a follower of Jesus and engage in his mission to heal the world with His community with the help of His Spirit today?

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. Let us pray together using "A Prayer Response to Jesus".

IF YOU ARE IN WORLD 4, you are doing good in the world. *Are you following Jesus and engaging in his mission to heal the world with his community?*

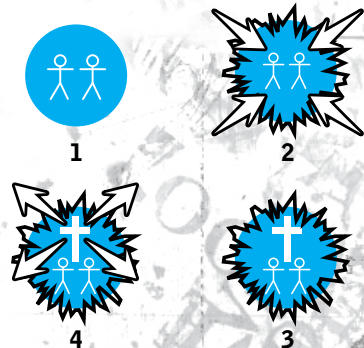
If yes: Are you involved in community and would you like to receive information about fellowship?

If No: *Would you like to become a follower of Jesus and engage in his mission to heal the world with His community with the help of His Spirit today?*

You can begin by telling Jesus you would like to become a follower. Let us pray together using "A Prayer Response to Jesus".

A PRAYER RESPONSE TO JESUS

Jesus, I believe that your death and resurrection broke the cycle of corruption in the world and in me. I acknowledge my responsibility in contributing to the damage in the world. I receive your forgiveness. I choose to follow you and let you be my leader. I receive your Spirit.



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