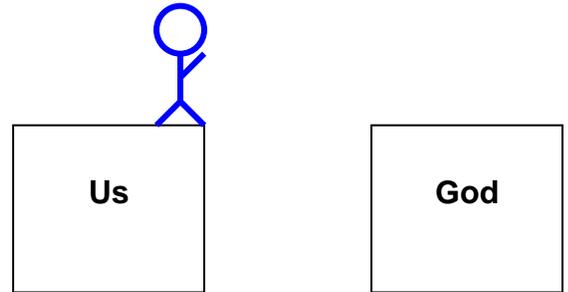


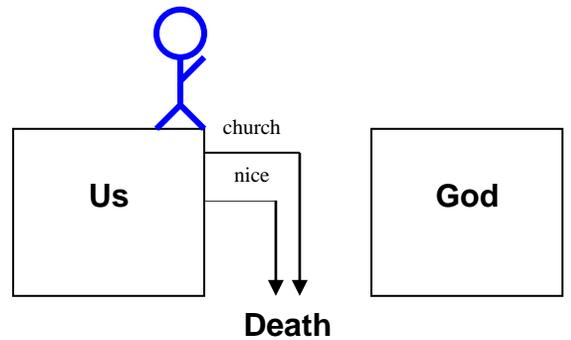
The Gospel Presentation with the Bridge Diagram

Introduction: God wants to be intimate with us. The beginning of the Bible talks about God acting like a father to the people he created. God desires for us to be in an intimate relationship with him.

Bad News: we are sinners. Sadly, we are separated from God because he is perfectly pure and holy while we are tainted with sin. Romans 3.23 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." Would you agree that in some way you have fallen short of perfection, that you have done something wrong at some time in life?

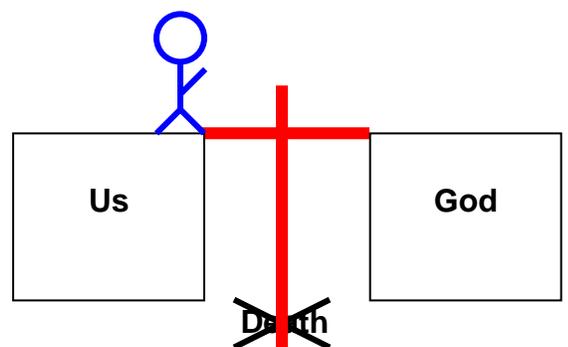


Bad News: we cannot fix the problem. To some degree most people are aware of this separation from God; some sense God is distant, feel an emptiness, or feel guilt about sin. So we try to reconcile with God – to bridge this gap – by going to church, giving to charity, and doing nice things for others. Unfortunately, these things fall short, none of the things we try can accomplish a reconciliation with God. Proverbs 14.12 says, "There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death." This is both spiritual death – the separation from God that we talked about – and physical death. You see, while the things we do might be good, they can never make us pure again, and so they can never reconcile us with God. The Bible states this conclusively in Romans 3.20, which says, "For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are." Do you understand that you cannot make yourself pure enough to be intimate with God?



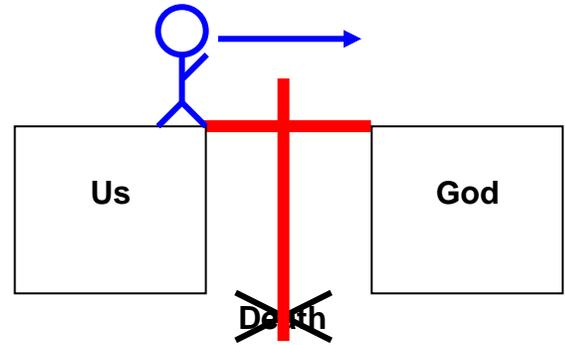
Bad News: the penalty for sin is death. Romans 6.23 begins, "For the wages of sin is death..." Because of our sin, we have spiritual death – separation from God – and physical death. If we end this life still separated from God then we are destined to spend eternity separated from God, in what the Bible calls Hell. That's the bad news.

Good News: Jesus died for us. The "Good News" is that God was willing to do for us what we could not do for ourselves: he built a bridge back to himself. The whole of Romans 6.23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus was the divine Son of God who came to Earth as a man. He was the promised Messiah or Christ from the Old Testament of the Bible. He came from Heaven to sacrificially die for us, to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus was a worthy sacrifice for mankind, because he lived a pure human life, and he was capable of making this sacrifice, of taking on the penalty of our sin, because he was the divine Son of God. Romans 5.8 says, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."



Good News: Jesus was resurrected. A couple of days after Jesus' death on the cross, he was resurrected from the dead – at which time he appeared to hundreds of people – to prove his identity as the Son of God, to prove God the Father accepted his sacrifice for us, and to prove he had conquered death and sin. 1 Corinthians 15.3-6 says, "I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died."

Good News: we can be saved through faith. Based on Jesus' sacrifice, God offers us forgiveness of our sins, he offers to attribute to us the righteousness of Christ, and thus he offers to reconcile us to himself and save us from eternal death. We accept this gift of grace – we cross the bridge – simply by believing this offer of deliverance to be true. Romans 10.9-10 says, "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. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved." The question is, are you ready to cross the bridge? Do you believe Jesus was who he said he was: the Son of God who came to be the human Savior called Christ? Do you believe that he accomplished what he said he would: paying the penalty for your sins in his death and resurrection from the grave, so that you could have forgiveness, reconciliation with God, and eternal life?



Good News: this is a gift. Ephesians 2.8-9 says, "God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Do you trust only in God to save you, as a gift of grace through what Jesus did for you, not putting any trust in anything you can do, such as pray, attend church, get baptized, take communion, or do good deeds?

Conclusion: prayer. Having faith is great cause to celebrate! Your acceptance of God's grace in faith brings you into God's kingdom! You are now a citizen of Heaven, a child of God, declared righteous before him! Your name is written in the book of life, the Holy Spirit is a seal of your salvation and has come to live inside you! You have eternal life right now! We should celebrate, but first, let's pray about this right now. Just repeat after me: "Dear God, I know I need your forgiveness because I have been a sinner. I believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came as the promised human Christ-savior, and that he died for me and then arose again. I trust Christ alone to be my savior. Thank you for the forgiveness and everlasting life I now have. Amen."

**If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email
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