

The Bridge Illustration

3. We cannot earn our way back to God.

The dashed lines that traverse downward short of reaching God represent our attempts to earn God's approval. We are simply not good enough by our own merit to reach the other side. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.."

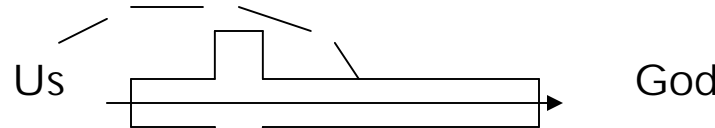
1. God is holy.

First, we must recognize that God is holy, being without sin and perfect in every way. His holiness demands our holiness. Without perfect holiness we cannot be with God. Leviticus 19:2 says, "Be holy as the Lord your God is holy."

2. We are sinners.

Every person is alienated from God because of sin. This is represented by the gap between man and God. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Left to ourselves we are self-ish and prone to do evil.

7. Those who receive the gift of salvation in Jesus will go to heaven to be with God forever in perfect joy.



6. We must repent and put our trust in Jesus to save us from sin and to make us holy.

Yet we must respond in faith to God's gracious gift of sending His Son to us and for us. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." We must acknowledge our sin before God, ask Him to forgive us, and turn from our sin unto serving God. When we do this, He becomes our Savior, and we become new creations in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17). God wipes our sin away and begins to enable us to live in a way honoring to Him.

1 John 5:13 says, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." Will you receive Jesus today?

**Spiritual
Death and
Hell**

4. Sin's penalty is hell.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." Our sin will forever separate us from God in hell.

5. God reached back to us.

But because God loved us, He made it possible for us to be with Him. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross as a perfect and holy sacrifice for our sins. He took the penalty onto His account which should have been ours to bear. This is represented by the cross which bridges the gap. Thus, a way has been made for us to be holy. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus rose from the dead, defeating sin and death.