

POOP ON YOUR DINNER PLATE

How much poop on your dinner plate is acceptable? Would you eat your dinner with one pound of poop on the side? How about half a pound? How about a fourth of a pound? Ok, how about an ounce? Come on, just an ounce! The rest of your plate is filled with prime rib, mash potatoes, and freshly steamed vegetables. How much poop are you willing to tolerate? Picky! What's a little poop on your plate? Just ignore the stench. Disregard the little bit that runs into the gravy. It is the same color. Can't you just pretend its pudding? Home made! Picky!

If you would never tolerate any poop on your plate, then what makes you think God should tolerate any sin? That's right...any sin. Does a little poop smell less like poop than a lot of poop? Does it taste less like poop?

So you think that you are a "good person?" Maybe you think there ain't no God. Maybe you think the entire universe created itself. You place your faith in Mother Nature like all the so-called intellectuals of our day. Think about that. You are willing to take a chance on eternity cause some PhD tells you God's dead. Are you really willing to take that chance? Not only are you picky, but you are also stubborn! You are full of pride and to be honest with you maybe you should just stop reading this and go on about your day. However, if you are willing to consider the idea of a perfect God and creator read on. Be prepared, the truth hurts and poop stinks!

Ok good person let's see how your concept of perfection stands up to God's. Now be honest! So you think your good enough for God and that you haven't sinned against God? You don't smell like poop? Let's see.

What is the most important thing in your life right now? If it is not God, then you have sinned (Exodus 20, Matthew 22:37).

Have you ever taken the Lord's name in vain? Have you ever used the terms Jesus, Christ, or God in anger or frustration? Smells like poop! (Exodus 20)

Have you ever sworn or do you let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no?" If you have ever sworn, you have sinned (Matthew 6:36).

When you were young, did you ALWAYS honor you father and mother (Exodus 20)? Get real! Don't lie! If not, you have sinned.

Have you ever killed anyone? I hope not! However, Jesus says that if you have ever been angry with your brother, or called him a "good for nothing" or a "fool" it is the same! That is right; you have committed murder in your heart (Matthew 5:22). Smells like big poop!!

Have you ever cheated on your spouse or had sexual relations with someone outside of wedlock? No, that's great! Jesus however says that if you look upon another with lust you have committed adultery in your heart (Matthew 6:28). Yep, Jesus has high expectations, he's God, and he has a right to.

Have you ever stolen anything? Was it a Cadillac, a pen, or an apple off someone's tree? It does not matter. You have sinned (Exodus 20). Poop is poop.

Have you ever lied? You've sinned (Exodus 20).

Have you ever coveted or lusted after someone's possessions? "Man, that red Corvette and fishing boat of my neighbor's would sure look good in my driveway." You have sinned (Exodus 20).

Seem a little strict doesn't it? Kind of makes you angry inside and flustered all at the same time. After all, what right does God have to put such restrictions (if you want to call the above poop "restrictions") on your life! Man, God is cruel.

What do you want me to tell you? O, it's ok, don't worry about it. God loves everyone, He aint really gonna hold you accountable. You are such a good person! Look at all the good stuff you have done. But wait, you don't accept no poop on your plate. Should God?

Pride. That would be a great name for a perfume! Why? You should be able to figure that one out by now. Our pride hides our poopie smell. It is like one of those sprays you put in the bathroom to mask the odor. What does the Bible say about our pride? David in Psalms 36:11 says "Let not the foot of pride come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away." Move forward to the 73rd Psalm and verse 6. Regarding the wicked: "Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment." Now jump next door to Proverbs 8 and verse 11 as Solomon describes wisdom: "The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil. Pride, and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate." Proverbs 29:23 sums it up well: "A man's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor." The Master himself in Mark chapter 7 provides a list of

the things, which defile a man. Listed with murder, adultery, theft, and slander is you guessed it, pride.

You still think maybe the intellectuals are right and that God is dead. Perhaps the universe formed itself and that Big Bang thing they taught you in grade school is true. The union of your particles is one big accident and the synchronicity of the universe holds itself together without direction or purpose. That's cool. You can hide God in numbers but you can't count on the obvious to lead you to God. Pride. Peel off the pride man.

Ok, so you are not perfect! Me either! And you know what, God knows we aren't perfect. He's got a way out for folks like us who admit they smell like poop! It's called the Good News. God loves a humble heart (Matthew 18:4, Matthew 23:12). God can clean up the poop in your life with Jesus! God is perfect and he accepts nothing but perfection into heaven, however He loves you more than you can imagine (John 3:16). He offers you a ticket to heaven through Christ Jesus who died for you and me!

SIDE NOTE: Before I share the Gospel with you, I want to commend you for staying with this. Most who began reading this probably stopped when they got to me saying they smelled like poop. That's the pride thing! We are in this thing together. I smell more like poop than anyone! I wrestle a lot with my own poopie smell. I sometime wrestle with God and his ways. However in the end I know He is real and there is nothing I can do to change Him. Look at Isaiah 29:14-16, ". . . and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hid. Woe to those who hide deep from the Lord their counsel, whose deeds are in the dark and who say, 'who sees us? Who knows us?' You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay; that the thing made should say of its maker, 'he did not make me;' or the thing formed say of him who formed it, 'he has no understanding?'" So sure we all have questions for God. There is nothing wrong with that. However to doubt his existence or to thumb one's nose at his authority is unwise and just plain sticking one's head in the sand.

So are you willing to play by God's rules? Have you closed the bottle of pride? Do you smell the poop? Read on! However, don't stop here. I recommend you read one of the Gospels. John is my favorite. By reading a Gospel you see first hand the life of Christ. Follow that up with a careful study of the book of Acts. Here you get to witness the start of the early church immediately following Christ's resurrection into heaven. There are many examples of folks like you and

me turning their lives over to Jesus. This way you can check out if what I am telling you here is true. Don't ever take man's word for it; trust only the word of God!

Cleaning Up the Poop (God's Plan of Salvation)

1. Fear God. Proverb 1:7 tells us that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. Don't get me wrong; God is love (I John 4:16). He is the author of it. His mercy is infinite. He died for us, however Hebrews 10:31 tells us: "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God." Obviously we are talking about those who refuse to play by God's rules and refuse to admit they smell like poop. Fear is a good thing, it leads to obedience.

1. Believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ. Look at Mark 9:23-24. Here Jesus is asked to remove an unclean spirit from his son. Jesus tells the man, "All things are possible for those who believe." The man replies to Jesus, "I believe, help my unbelief." This is awesome news for you and me because it shows us that the Lord is willing to meet us more than half way. We don't have to be perfect. We just need to be willing like this man here to let go of our pride and be willing to grab a hold of God's hand!

2. Repent of your sins! The first thing Jesus taught in his ministry here on earth was repentance (Matthew 4:17). You believe that Jesus died for your sins and was resurrected from the dead. You know that his blood covers your poopie smell. That is awesome. However, are you willing to turn to Christ and follow him regardless of the costs (Mark 8:34)? Are you willing to turn your back on the world and strive to please Jesus (Matthew 7:13)?

3. Have faith that the Lord Jesus will save you. Ephesians 2:8-9 says that it is by grace we are saved through faith; it is not of ourselves but a gift from God. It is not a result of works least anyone should boast. A lot of folks believe that flying is the safest way to travel yet they refuse to fly. They lack true faith.

4. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus says: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." Look over to Acts 2:37. A group of Jews ask Peter what they needed to do to be saved. Peter tells them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." In your walk with the Lord you will find many brothers and sisters in the Lord who argue over the issue of water baptism. Some will say it is vital to salvation, while others say it is

merely an outward sign of an inward faith. Some feel that sprinkling infants is fine with the Lord, others insist upon the total immersion of a cognitive believer. There is an easy answer to this question. Read the Bible!

1. Jesus commanded it, he did not suggest it.
2. The word baptism means immersion (Greek).
3. The Bible indicates that baptism involves much water (Matthew 3:16, John 3:23, Acts 8:39).
4. If infants were baptized, the Bible has no mention of it. All believers who were baptized knew what they were doing.

Come Out Of It Smelling Like a Rose

A good friend of mine in Christ told me that the saving grace of Jesus is like balloons. At carnivals you can purchase these balloons that are inside of each other. The little ones are inside the big ones. You will notice that the little ones inside the big ones will have the same color as the larger exterior balloon regardless of its own color. That's very similar to how our sins are covered with the blood of Jesus. As long as we are covered by his blood we are clean to God. His blood covers our sins (stench). Be inside Jesus and be saved. Be inside Jesus and be confident that God won't smell your poopie smell. God bless you!