



# **If you were to die tonight do you know where you'd go?**

Interestingly I've been asked this question a few times recently! Not always in so many words but often in a light-hearted way that might well betray a more serious question.

In order to start to answer the question I guess we first need to ask will I, in fact, go anywhere? After all lots of people will tell you that life's for living, you only get one life and when you're dead you're dead.

Others will tell you that it's possible to contact your loved ones who've passed over and maybe ask them what it's like.

Then they'll be some who've had near-death experiences when they've experienced light and voices calling or similar experiences. But, somehow, none of these are truly

all of them were true it still doesn't answer our question. Where would **I** go?

## So, Who made me?

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A better way to begin looking at the question might be to ask, where did I come from?

Of course, there's an obvious answer! Like me you were born. In the normal way out of a relationship between a man and a woman!

### **However there's a lot more to the question than that!**

Were human beings just the result of an amazing but accidental set of evolutionary events or the result of special creation by God?

The Bible says :

“For you created my inmost being ; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made”

I find it pretty hard to believe that we are all some kind of huge accident stemming from random events in space which eventually led to life!

Just spend a few minutes looking at your body —those amazing hands and fingers. That amazing brain that can recall so much even if, as you get older, the events of 20 years ago are clearer than yesterday!

Also...you are unique. There's no-one anywhere like you. There might be someone who looks like you, even someone who sounds like you or has your talents...but the amazing combination that is you will not be duplicated anywhere, even if you're a twin!

So, it takes a lot of faith to believe I'm just an accident. It also takes a lot of faith to believe that I'm just here for a few years then it's all over.

**God**, of course, is the obvious answer! But that begs the question, what sort of God do you believe in?

Christians believe in a God with at least two vital characteristics :

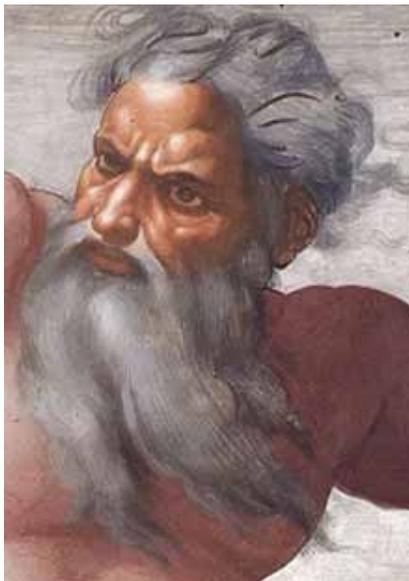
- LOVE
- JUSTICE

The love one is great! We all need to be loved and to show love. However, we might find it hard to believe in a God of love when we look at some of the things that happen in our world. We might well ask if God has made the world and then left it to get on with itself until we all finally wreck everything he's made.

Justice is tougher. God, the Bible teaches, is a God of Holiness and perfection and can only have to do with a people who are also holy and perfect. That rules all of us out regardless of how much better we might think we are than many of the others!

So, let's take the two together. God is Love but he is not a controlling autocrat, he gave us freewill to make our own decisions But, we live in a world he made to function on holiness and justice so, when we ignore his pattern, the whole thing is messed up.

For the Christian, all this comes together in one single historical event. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.





God's justice demanded that all men and women deserved punishment.

God's love said he wanted all men and women to have eternal life.

So, Jesus came into our world. The only man who has ever lived a perfect life. He

died, not for his own wrongdoing and (to use the Bible's word) sin but for ours. Yours and mine. Jesus took the punishment that God's justice said should have been ours. God has accepted that payment and is ready to give total forgiveness to every man and woman who believes in Jesus.

Now...back to the question that started all this!

If you were to die tonight believing in Jesus and accepting that he died for your wrongdoing you would be certain of eternal life present with God.

If you were to die tonight without that belief you would face God's punishment as if Jesus had never taken it. That would be an eternal loss.

Finally...believing in Jesus is about far more than what happens when you die. It's about a whole new life now. Life as God intended it.

But that's another story. If you want to know more, ask a Christian at the church identified on this leaflet!

**Want to know more?  
Got questions?  
Come and see us at  
Thursday Coffee morning  
9.30 — 1.30**

