

Believe Series
“Humanity”
How does God see us?

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

So God created human beings in his own image.

*In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)

**We believe that all people are loved by God
and need Jesus as their savior.**

God loves everyone.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NLT)

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12 (NLT)

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12 (NIV)

We need to see people how God sees people.

“But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

Luke 6:27-36 (NLT)

Some people believe:

**God loves them but not other people.
God loves other people but not them.**

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28 (NLT)

We should treat people how God treats us.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

1 John 4:11 (NLT)

We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Romans 3:22-24 (NLT)

This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and

actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Colossians 1:21-22 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?

1 John 4:20 (NLT)

Because God loves all people, I should love all people.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:16-17 (NLT)

What do you believe?

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Read Believe Chapter 7: Humanity.

1. Why do some people believe they are better than another person?
2. When and where do you find yourself making snap judgments about people you don't know yet?
3. Re-read John 1:12. Do you find it difficult to receive God's love and Forgiveness? Why or Why not?
4. Re-read Luke 6:27-36. Who do you consider your enemy either right now or in your past? Why?

What does it look like to love your enemy in that situation?

5. Describe a time when God changed your heart toward a person or people group. What specifically caused the change within you?
6. Who is one person you need to work on your attitude and actions towards to live out God's view of ALL people? What will you do differently?