

How to Know

The Path to Personal Faith

(4/5/07)

Lesson One

What's the Matter with People?

In a world of over five billion people, it's hard to find common elements that link every person of every race, creed and culture. There is, however, one dimension on which all men and women come to the same position. According to God, there is one issue that keeps all of us from relating to God in a meaningful way. This session should yield some enlightening answers!

Thinking it through . . .

1. **What does God call it when you knowingly break the rules?**
James 4:17
2. **How did sin begin?**
Romans 5:12
3. **Are all people sinners?**
Romans 3:23
4. **How great is sin's impact on your life?**
Romans 6:6
5. **Are there degrees of sinners?**
Romans 2:1-6
6. **How many sins does it take to separate us from God?**
James 2:10
7. **What are the consequences for sin in this life?**
Ephesians 2:1-3

8. **What are the consequences for sin after this life?**

Romans 2:5-6

9. **Are you still a sinner if you never hear about God?**

Romans 1:19-20

10. **Is there anything you can do to solve your own sin problem?**

Romans 3:19-26

Getting the point . . .

It's normal for us to measure ourselves against other people. Though we know a few people who are better, we know many who appear to be worse. As long as we see ourselves in the upper-half of humanity on the good scale, we feel confident that God will deal favorably with us someday.

We've discovered in this chapter that this line of reasoning is clever but inaccurate. God has a different approach in measuring men and women in life. People play for closest-to-the-pin; God asks for hole-in-one or nothing. We may be better than most, but we still come up short on His perfect measurement.

If all we learned from God was how short we come in making it in life, we would be hopeless indeed. That's where the process must begin, but fortunately, He doesn't leave us there. We have to understand our problem to fully appreciate His astounding solution.

Wrapping it up . . .

From what we've studied today, I see that sin affects me by . . .
