

# The Reason For God: Consistently Inconsistent

## God gives each of us a Free Will

*Genesis 2:16-17 (MSG)* "You can eat from any tree in the garden, except from the Tree-of-Knowledge-of-Good-and-Evil. Don't eat from it. The moment you eat from that tree, you're dead."

*Joshua 24:15 (MSG)* If you decide that it's a bad thing to worship GOD, then choose a god you'd rather serve—and do it today.

## It's our consistently inconsistent ways that give us problems

*Proverbs 20:9 (NIV)* Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?

*Romans 7:15-18 (NIV)* I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

*Matthew 7:1-5 (MSG)* Don't pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults—unless, of course, you want the same treatment. (2) That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. (3) It's easy to see a smudge on your neighbor's face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. (4) Do you have the nerve to say, 'Let me wash your face for you,' when your own face is distorted by contempt? (5) It's this whole traveling road-show mentality all over again, playing a holier-than-thou part instead of just living your part.

## God's answer is not me somehow doing better, it's Jesus.

*Romans 7:22-25 (MSG)* I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

*1 Peter 2:9-10 (MSG)* But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you— from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

*2 Peter 3:9 (MSG)* God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.

*2 Peter 3:11 (MSG)* Since everything here today might well be gone tomorrow, do you see how essential it is to live a holy life?