

Bible Studies

A hard Question

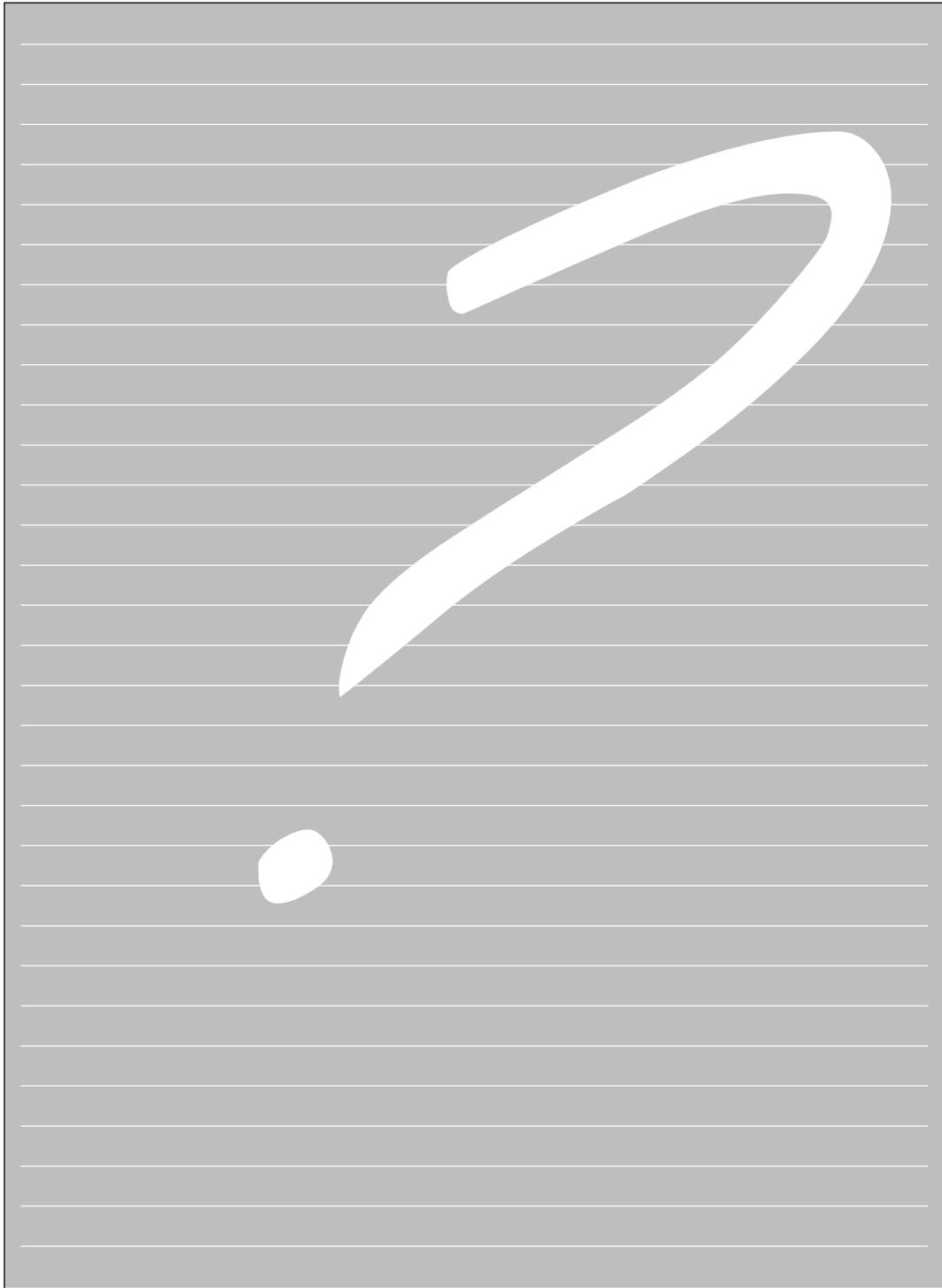
Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17

As a Christian what make me different from who I used to be?

What makes me different from a non Christian?

What makes me different from someone who is morally good?

The front page of this study is for us to brain storm and come up with some answers. The back of this sheet is Pastor Rays answer (He had as long to think about it as you do). **Do not cheat.**



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I have faith.
 I have a relationship with God. I know God as my own friend. I know I can trust Him with my whole life. I know I don't have to defend myself because he will.
 I have different standards.
 2 Corinthians 10:2
 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
 I have different values.
 I have different goals.
 I know where I am going.
 I act differently.
 I treat people differently.
 I want to please God not get rich.
 I have forgiveness of sins.
 I have a different status before God.
 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:21
 I see things from a spiritual perspective.
 Spiritual things are spiritually discerned.
 I am set free from the power of sin.
 I have the power to be righteous. I have the power to resist temptation.
 I am able to live a holy life and please God.

The indicative and the imperative

This is a grammatical trick Paul often uses. Many of us look at the above list and say *yes I know this is what I should be, but I also know I fall short of it. This means I am not a Christian, or at least not a very good one.* Paul looks at it a different way

The **indicative** means "You are,"
 The **imperative** says "You must."

Paul sums it up by saying "*Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are*". 1 Corinthians 5:7

The **indicative** = You are a new batch of dough without yeast (Sin)

The **imperative** = Therefore get rid of the Yeast (sin) from your life.

Be what you already are.

Other examples *Romans 6:11-14*

Colossians 3:1-2

God has made us holy and righteous (Indicative - you are Righteous) so we must live accordingly (imperative - you must be righteous). We are already new creations, so we must live as new creations.

Do not doubt what God has done in salvation, just ask Him for the ability to live out in your life what He has already made you.

Grace says We are already righteous therefore our actions should be righteous

legalism says You must be righteous so that God will accept you.

Licence says I am righteous so it does not matter what I do

Which statement is true?

If I am really good God will accept me

I am going to be really good because God has already accepted me

It does not matter if I am good or bad because God accepts me anyway