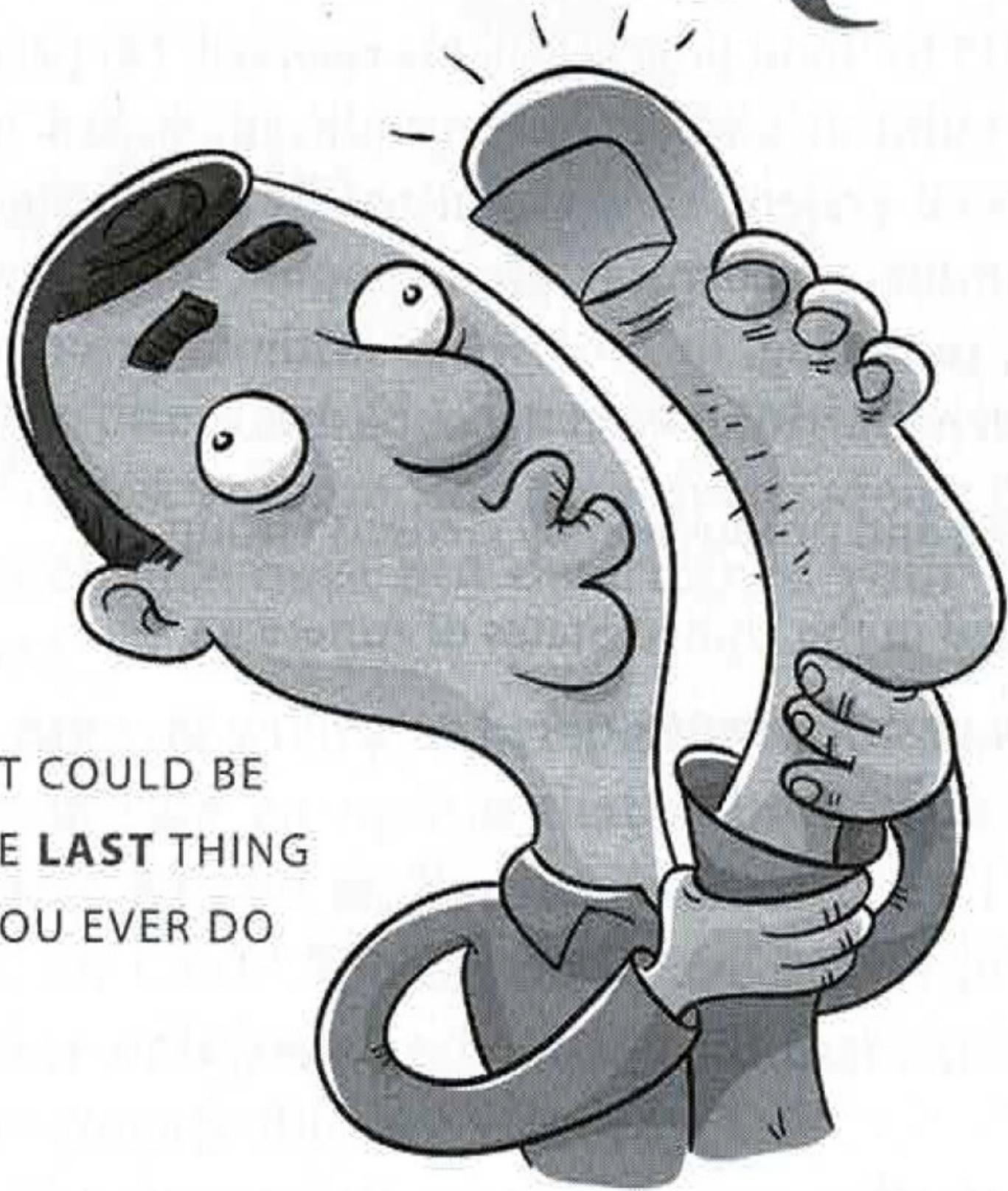
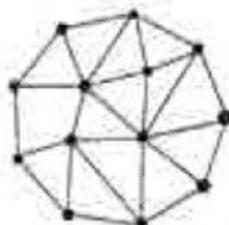


Don't Stub Your Toe



IT COULD BE
THE **LAST** THING
YOU EVER DO

TODD FRIEL



GOSPEL
PARTNERS
MEDIA

Reaching the lost. Together.

Don't Stub Your Toe

Published by

Gospel Partners Media

3070 Windward Plaza, Ste. F301

Alpharetta, GA 30005

© 2017 by Todd Friel. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means—electronic, mechanical, photographic (photocopying), recording, or otherwise—without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Design and production by Genesis Group

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-0-9996056-0-8

You Are Not Lucky

Primordial Soup



Despite what you have been told in science class, you are not here by accident; time and chance have not determined your existence.

Are you willing to be open-minded enough to consider an option that is both true and better? Here it is: You were created by God, and for God.¹ You are an image bearer of the Maker of heaven and earth. And that explains why you are the way you are.

You see, every created object reflects aspects of its creator. You are no different. Just as art is a faint reflection of the artist, and a building reflects something of the architect,

you bear a resemblance to the God who created you.²

- You live because God is alive.
- You think because God thinks.
- You work because God is at work.

Design reveals something about the designer. Your designer is the God of the Bible. While you are not a god, you are made in the likeness of God Himself and you share some of His attributes.

- You see and hear because God sees and hears.
- You communicate because God communicates.
- You have emotions because God has emotions.

Not only has the Creator of the universe intricately designed you, He thought of you before time began, and He knows you even better than you know yourself.³ God knows your birth date, death date, and every date in

between. He sustains your life and is intimately involved in every detail.

Your God, whether you acknowledge Him as such or not, knows what you are going to think, speak, and do before you do. Absolutely nothing about you is a secret to Him. That raises a question: what exactly does He see when He looks at you?

Twenty-five years ago, I would have answered that question the same way you probably did: “Overall, God sees me as a pretty good person.” Will you permit me to challenge your answer? You do not need to pass your paper to the front of the class; this is strictly between you and God.

Are You Sure You Are a Good Person?

While this might sound counterintuitive, the most horrifying sentence you will ever hear is, “God is good.” God is thoroughly righteous, holy, just, and loving. While that sounds like good news, if we consider this more deeply, it is not good news for us at all.

Because God is good, He loves everything that is good: kindness, generosity, love, faithfulness, patience, grace, mercy, charity, gentleness, compassion, honesty, etc.

Because God loves all things that are good, He necessarily hates everything that is not good: cruelty, murder, theft, violence, hatred, lying, greed, bullying, immorality, unrighteous anger, etc.

God did not write the standard of right and wrong; He is the standard of right and wrong. Morality did not evolve, it exists because God is moral, and our programmer has hardwired us with His moral code. We have a name for that: the conscience.

This explains why you and I feel guilty when we do something wrong. This also explains why you and I have an intuitive fear of death; we sense that something bad could happen on the other side. There is a reason for that too.

Because the foundation of God's throne is righteousness and justice,⁴ God cannot and will not let unrighteous acts go unpunished.

- We have courtrooms because God is going to have a day in court with every human who has ever lived.⁵
- We have judges because God is the ultimate supreme court justice.
- We have prisons because God has an eternal prison prepared for lawbreakers.

“It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”⁶ Unlike earthly courts where clever lawyers can manipulate the laws, God will not be fooled. There will be no lost evidence, no perjury, and no confusion.

- Every dirty fantasy will be revealed.
- Every mean thought will be exposed.
- Every deed done in darkness will be brought into the light.
- Every violation of God’s perfect, holy law will be judged for what it is: sin.

While this might make you uncomfortable, isn’t it better to examine yourself today, rather than wait until it is too late to do any-

thing about it? So let's go to the courtroom of God's justice and see how you will do.

The Court Room

Imagine you are standing before your Creator. The One who spoke the universe into existence opens the books to the pages that bear your name. Your record of lawbreaking is chronicled in perfect detail. Permit me to open the books to just five of God's laws.

First Commandment: "You shall have no other gods before Me"⁷

It is only right that our primary affections go to the One who made us. When we love anything more than God (even good things), those objects effectively become our idols.

Should we love our spouse and children? Yes. Can we enjoy a good meal or own a nice home? Of course. But when we love the gifts more than the Giver, then we have violated this commandment. Can any of us say that our primary affections have always been directed toward the God who made us?

Third Commandment: "You shall not take the name of God in vain"⁸

Have you ever used God's name flippantly, as in "OMG"? Instead of using a four-letter filth word, have you used God's holy name to curse or express disgust? Is it any wonder God says, "The LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain"⁹?

Fifth Commandment: "Honor your father and your mother"¹⁰

Did you always happily obey and honor your parents? Were you ever disobedient or disrespectful? You and I were no different than the little monster children we see at a McDonald's Playland. Every person on the planet has broken this law, including you.

Sixth Commandment: "You shall not murder"¹¹

Undoubtedly you think you are safe on this one, but Jesus said, "Everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court... and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."¹²

The Bible says that “everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.”¹³ How many times did you call your siblings names? Have you ever been mad at another driver? Have you ever gossiped and impugned another’s reputation? Then God views you as a murderer at heart, because He sees more than our actions; He sees our thought life.

Seventh Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery”¹⁴

Perhaps you are relieved that you have never had an affair. Read these words of Jesus carefully:

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”¹⁵

How many sexual thoughts have you had that you would prefer your mother didn’t know about? How many times have you stared at pornography? God has recorded

every sinful sexual thought you have ever had.

How Did You Do?

That was just five of the Ten Commandments. If you have broken any of God's laws, then you are just like the rest of us: a sinner who has rebelled against the sovereign King of creation.

- We feel guilty because we are guilty.
- We feel shame because we have done shameful things.
- We are afraid to die because our consciences tell us we are in big trouble with our Maker.

When we take inventory of our violations against God's law, we see that we have a warehouse full of sins. Our day in court looks rather bleak.