

Why did God create man?

I've often wondered why God went to the trouble to create mankind. If God is truly all powerful, all knowing, and able to know the future – then why would he create a weak and sinful creature like man? God had to have known that man was going to sin, and that he was going to be a big disappointment. In Gen 6:6 the scripture says, “And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in his heart.” And this happened in just the short period of time between the creation and the flood.

So why did He do it? Why did God create mankind? And it's not like he couldn't have created us **better**, because He could have. It looks like God stacked the odds against Himself. Why did he have to give man a superior brain from the rest of creation? Why did he have to give him this ability to think and reason? And why in the world would He have given him the option to choose whether or not he would serve Him and do His will? Joshua 24:15, “And if it seems evil for you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

God could have easily made us willing followers, always doing whatever He wanted us to do, but He didn't – Why? It must be kind of like being a teacher. You have a whole room full of students, and you know they **all** won't be successful in life, but you are willing to put in the time and effort because you have hope that at least some of them will make it. Some of them will put forth the time and effort, make the right choices, and make something of themselves.

When you think about it, sometimes it just doesn't seem fair that God would create us free moral agents, and then punish us when we make wrong choices. What we have to remember though, is that we are the **creature**, not the **Creator** (Rom 1:25),

and God is in control of our lives. So, God must have wanted us this way, but friends, it's not all bad. There is a lot of good in this life and God does offer us hope. We don't have to be resigned to a life of wrong choices and eternal punishment. Just as we have the ability to **choose sin**, we also have the ability to **choose not to sin**.

But this can be a hard choice. And don't ever let anyone tell you that choosing the good moral life of a Christian is easy, because it's not, and most of us have figured this out by now. The human frailties and desires that satisfy our emotional needs in this life can easily lead us down a path of sin if we allow them to. God gave us our brain and our ability to reason so we could make **good cognitive** choices, rather than **poor emotional** choices. In I Cor. 10:13 Paul tells us, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

I'm afraid that many people think God is going to somehow do something miraculous to remove us from an evil or possibly sinful situation that we might find ourselves in, but it just doesn't work this way. God **does not** offer us a miraculous way of escaping temptation and sin. He expects us to use the brain He gave us, respect His will, and make a choice not to give in to our temptations and desires. He goes on to say in verse 14, to "flee idolatry", and in II Tim 2:22 to "flee youthful lusts", in I Cor. 6:18 to "flee fornication", and in James 4:7 to "resist the devil and he will flee from you." Removing ourselves from the temptation and sin is the only way to escape.

But escaping is only part of the solution. We must flee **toward** God. Whatever **void** is made in our life by removing temptation and sin must be **filled** with godliness. I Tim 6:11 says, "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and gentleness." If we can remove the temptation and sin in our life and replace it

with righteousness and godliness, we will have created that way of escape that leads to eternal life.

So why did God create us? In John 10: 27-28 Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me, 28) And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” **God wanted us to have eternal life.** He created man a superior creature, one that could choose to follow His voice, and because of his faithfulness be allowed to have eternal life. Think about it, an eternal life with God and Christ in heaven – what an opportunity this is, and we all have this same opportunity.

If however we do not choose to follow God, He **will** allow us to be lost. And it’s not because He wants anyone to be lost, because God wants everyone to go to heaven. In II Pet 3:9 Peter said, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”. God will help us not to be lost. II Pet 1:3 tells us, “He has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness”, as well as “the way of escape” that we just talked about (I Cor. 10:13). If we are lost and miss heaven, it would be nice to blame someone else, but the fact is, **heaven is ours to lose.** God has given us the opportunity for salvation – what are we going to do with ours?

If you are struggling with temptation and sin in your life, please let someone know. There are many here willing to help. Christians weren’t meant to struggle alone. Let’s “share one another’s burdens” (Gal 6:2), and maybe we can all make it to heaven.