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## **“GOD ACCEPTS ME AS I AM”**

*(The Defense Series – Part 2)*

*Ben Giselbach*

[Welcome to *The Defense Series*. The aim of this series is to help Christians more effectively “make a defense” (1 Pet. 3:15) to those who challenge the teachings and values of New Testament Christianity. Don’t be fooled by the title; this article is a *response* to the above quote. My prayer is that the following words will help and embolden you as you stand for Truth.]

I will always love my son, but that does not mean I will accept him when he wanders into the street or tries to touch the eye of a hot stove. As he matures into adulthood I will still always love him, but that does not mean I will always accept him if he ever denies his Lord (cf. Heb. 12:6). Likewise, since God is love, He hates that which is inherently destructive to the object of His love – *us* – and therefore has given us objective standards of behavior (cf. 2 Thess. 1:8).

**The “God accepts me as I am” mindset fools the lost into thinking they are saved.**

**The devil loves the “God accepts me as I am” disposition. It removes any sense of urgency in obeying the Lord.**

If God accepts me without condition, why should I care about the call of Christ when He said, “If anyone would come after Me, let Him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me” (Luke 9:23)? If I am already a basically “good person” and God already “accepts as I am,” why should I follow Him? Certainly there is no need for me to deny myself and take up the cross of discipleship.

**“God accepts me as I am” theology removes the need for belief, because belief is necessary to following Christ** (cf. John 3:36). If one is not following Jesus, there can be no *relationship* with Jesus. And without a *relationship* there can be no *commitment*. Subsequently, **“God accepts me as I am” can only result in a pseudo, feel-good type of religion, devoid of any real substance.**

**The “God accepts me as I am” mindset destroys the need for evangelism.**

If God accepts me as I am, surely He accepts others. As a result, not only am I *not* committed to the Lord, but I have *no concern* for other people’s relationship to Him. **Why should I bother telling others about God and His plan for saving mankind if I have no clear concept of what it means to be spiritually lost?**

The only solution to this tragic misunderstanding is to realize that God’s love and justice are both satisfied at the Cross. Sin resulted in spiritual death (Rom. 3:23), but the Cross provided an opportunity for salvation (Rom. 6:23). God loves all men equally and universally (John 3:16), but unless we humbly and obediently follow Him, we cannot enjoy the benefits of His love.

To take one attribute of God at the neglect of His other attributes is to create a god who is not real.