

9. No lying

10. Be happy with what you have

While murder, violence and theft are tolerated less and less in our society, they are ever-increasing in our entertainment. Entertainment is also full of fornication, adultery, homosexuality and lying—but **they are now generally accepted in our society**. How many sitcoms are about people who lie to teach other to get a “hot date”, only to break up during the same or next few episodes? How many people who have multiple sex partners are really happy with it all? Or are they in the never-ending trap thinking the “next one” will make them happy? How many people lie or steal to get what they want, only to find themselves without any real friends. While marriages are not always happy, the most content people in life are consistently found in the life-long marriage crowd. Do not forget commandment 10: Do you find yourself wishing for something that somebody else has? Pray for peace. Being jealous only makes your life worse.

All Have Sinned, All Can Repent

So is the solution to life to try to live by the Ten Commandments and the rest of righteous biblical teaching? Your life will certainly be better going God’s way rather than your own. But you will probably find that temptations sometimes overwhelm you—you cannot live up to the holy, righteous standard of the Bible. God has a plan:

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ... For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord

(Romans 3:23; 6:23).

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness (1John 1:8).

Each person needs to repent of their sins—be sorry form them and turn around and go the other way. Then, God promises to cleanse us from them, so they we do not hurt ourselves or others for eternity. Who wants to live forever with a mean old grump?

But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:48).

For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is (1 John 3:2).

You have an awesome eternal future ahead of you. The sooner you get started on it, the better. Pray! Read the Bible! Meet with other believers who will encourage you.

Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38).

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can overcome all things and receive eternal life!

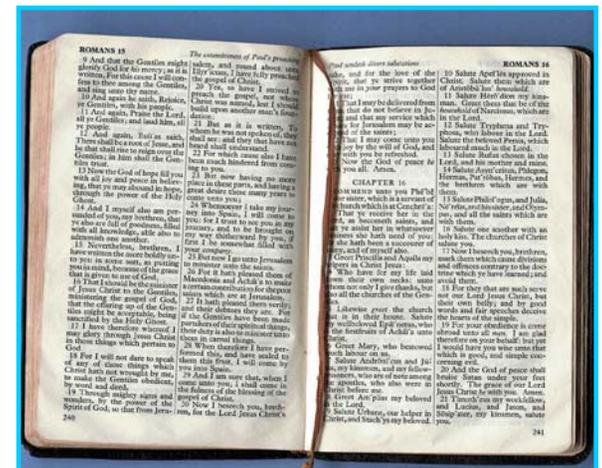
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GOODNW01 Bible quotes from New Living Translation

The Good News of the Bible

The Bible does have good news for you! It can make the difference between a frustrating, difficult life, and one filled with purpose, meaning and love.

This is not about joining a church, but about understanding God’s purpose for your life now, and then going forward to live forever. No matter what kind of past you came from, God provides everything you need to move on to a bright future. There are no excep-

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tions! A good life now and eternal life later are available to you!

Anyone who has ever taken a trip knows that if you start off going in the opposite direction, it will take even longer to reach the destination. So please, do not keep going the wrong way, but use this time to make this life better—and to be closer living forever!

God Is Creator

The Bible starts with the book of Genesis and the vital truth about who you are:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."... This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. Now the man and his wife were both naked, but they felt no shame (Genesis 1:1, 27-28; 2:24-25).

If we cannot believe God created the physical universe and all living things, then how can we have any hope He can give us eternal life? These verses show that God made the first humans in his own image and then gave them the task of creating the rest of mankind. He gave us authority over the earth and its creatures. He said that sex was a good thing—in a marriage.

But today, there is a lot of confusion about these simple things. Some people think human life is the product of millions of years of evolution based on "survival of the fit-

test". If evolution is true, then every organism ought to be doing everything it can to strengthen itself and get rid of competing organisms—killing others not useful to oneself would be a good thing, as long as one is smart enough not to get punished for doing it. If evolution is true, there is no reason to preserve mankind—a better species might evolve to replace us. But evolution is not true and the Bible teaches us it is better to "love our neighbor as ourselves" (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39).

But what is love? Is it the unashamed sexuality and near-nakedness found throughout our advertising and entertainment? No. Those things are simply designed to make money. Our creator designed sex to make marriages exciting and fun—and forgiving. Our Western societies have sought short-term gratification at the expense of the awesome responsibility of creating new life. Today we have millions of broken families, aborted children and unloved children.

Finally, Genesis explains we are superior to animal life. We can eat them, move them elsewhere or do what is necessary to protect ourselves from harm. Mankind is in charge of the earth! We can make improvements!

Good or Evil: We have a Choice

Genesis chapter 3 tells the story of two trees, from which Adam and Eve could eat. If they followed God, they could eat from the "tree of life" and receive eternal life. Or, they could eat from the other tree, and decide for themselves what is good and evil—and then they would die. This is the explanation for why there is so much evil in the world—

because so many people do what they believe is best, not what God shows is best.

But if God made everything that lives, wouldn't He know best what is good for us? It seems obvious that He would. So how then, can you know what is good?

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me (Jeremiah 29:13).

If you ask in prayer, He will show you. We also have His teaching in the Bible. The Ten Commandments are one of the most concise definitions of good. Read them all in Exodus 20:1-18 or read this summary:

1. Put God first
2. No idols or charms
3. Do not use God's name vainly
4. Work six days, rest one
5. Honor your parents so you may live long

An adult who deserts God is like a five-year old who thinks he knows it all and runs away from his parents. These commandments teach us to honor our Creator and give us time to study and learn His ways. False religions are frequently manipulated by their human priests or ministers for their own selfish gains. After God, we owe the next greatest respect to our parents—the ones God used to bring us into the world. If our biological parents abandoned or abused us, we owe that respect to the good people who cared for us. These commandments will keep us tuned in to what life is really about.

6. No murder or violence
7. No sexual sins
8. No theft