



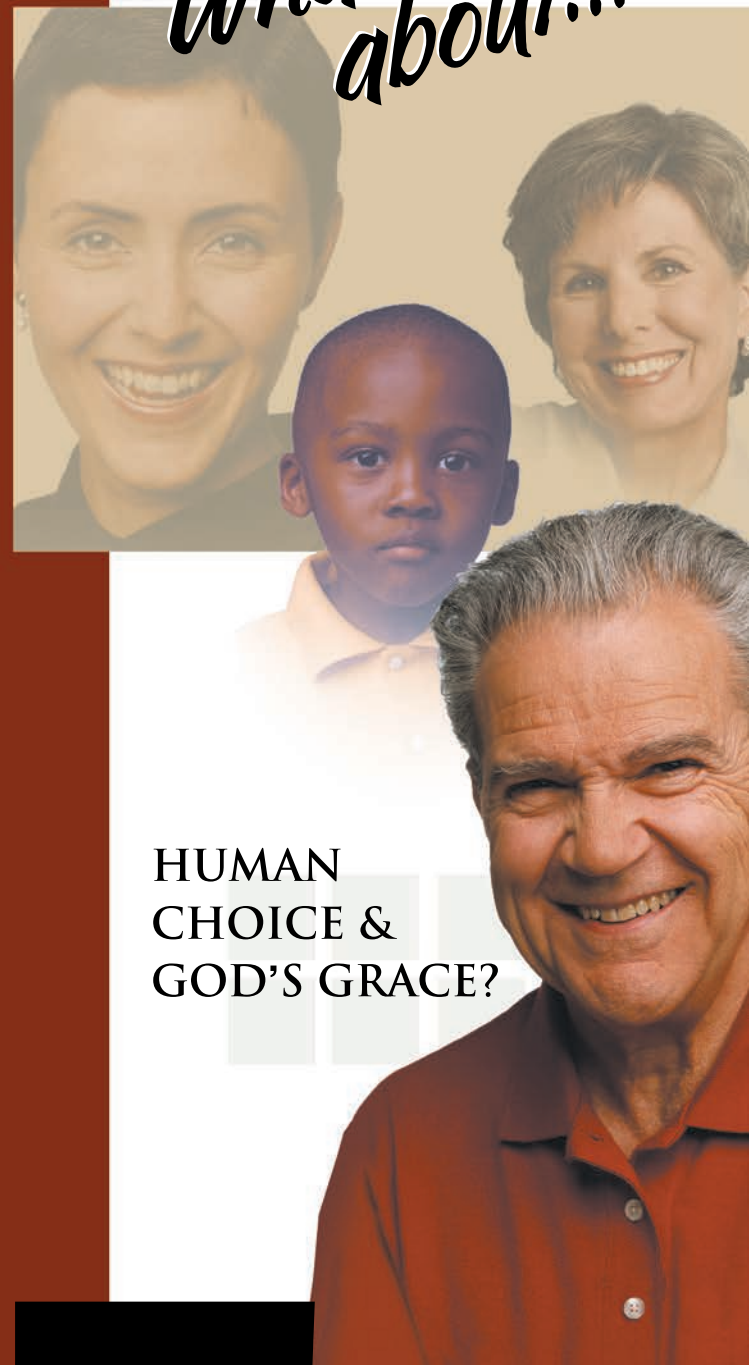
“...CAN WE CHOOSE GOD AS
HE REALLY IS? NO...
HE CHOSE US.”

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*What
about...*



HUMAN
CHOICE &
GOD'S GRACE?

What About...Human Choice and God's Grace?

What should I eat? What will I wear? What am I going to do tonight? Choices. Decisions. We make them every day.

Can we choose God? Well, we might choose to invent God, to make him say and do what we want. People have been doing that for centuries. Some create images to worship; others speculate about religious ideas. Still others invent a deity according to their own thoughts. But can we choose God as he really is? The answer is no.

Why not?

First, by ourselves we could not imagine what God is like. We have no comparison. God is higher and deeper than anything we have ever experienced. How could we choose what we cannot comprehend?

Second, by ourselves we couldn't understand what God did for us. God loved humanity enough to sacrifice his own Son, Jesus. He charged Jesus with our guilt in order to rescue every human from sin and death. He gives this release from sin and death freely to all people. No human could have imagined that sacrifice or the gift of grace. It doesn't make any sense to us. We think quite naturally that we can earn it by good behavior. But it's God's free gift by faith in Jesus.

Third, we are so wrapped up in our own thoughts and activities that we would never have found time for God. That's quite natural even. The Bible says we are by nature dead in our sins (Ephesians 2:1). Left to ourselves, we are as incapable of choosing Jesus as a dead body is incapable of making itself alive again.

But nothing is impossible with God. God opens our minds to understand when we hear about his love for us in Jesus. The message of Jesus awakens faith within us.

God did everything. He sent Jesus. He tells us about his love. Through the power of his message, God creates faith within our hearts. It's all grace from beginning to end. We just receive it. God chose us freely in grace because as sinners it was impossible for us to choose him. We didn't choose God; he chose us.

“God loved humanity enough to sacrifice his own son”

