



[John 17:3](#)

(3) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

[Romans 5:1-2](#)

(1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (2) through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

[Isaiah 59:1-2](#)

(1) Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
(2) But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that He will not hear.

New King James Version

When [Adam and Eve](#) sinned, they, representing all mankind, were expelled by [God](#) from the [Garden of Eden](#). The Garden represents being in God's presence and thereby having easy access and communication with Him. In [Genesis 2:17](#), God had warned Adam and Eve that in the day they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would die. Once they sinned, it became evident that God did not mean they would die immediately, but that, if they ate of that tree, they were as good as dead.

Their human life went on, but God, to emphasize the serious effect of their [sin](#) to later generations, placed a flaming sword to guard the Garden's borders. This portrayed that

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for John 17:3 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

mankind, though still alive, was cut off from any relationship with Him. Thus, sin, which demonstrates a lack of [love](#) and fidelity for our Creator, not only seals the death penalty on each sinner, but it also denies an individual access to and thus communication with God while he lives on under Satan's continuing influence.

When Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, and we, by [faith](#) in that sacrifice, became justified, God legally cleared us of guilt before Him. It is as though the barrier of the flaming sword between us and Him were removed, opening the way for communication with Him and for the growth of a relationship with Him that never before existed for us.

The relationship we have with the Father and the Son through the work of [Jesus Christ](#), both as the [payment for our sins](#) and as our High Priest, is *everything* in terms of [salvation](#). Why is this true? Because we can now communicate with Them! Having access to God furnishes an opportunity for a relationship with the Father and the Son. The relationship is the medium of communication - holy, righteous, spiritual communication.

This communication is more than a mere counterbalance to the evil spiritual influence of this world. It decidedly tips the scales in our favor in this war for our spiritual survival, if we will but continue to believe and trust Them by taking advantage of the contact, communication, and influence freely given to us. What Jesus does ever so briefly in [John 17:3](#) is to tie quality of life, called "[eternal life](#)," to a person's relationship with God.

Even though many in it may be religious, [the world](#) does not have a [relationship with God](#). There is no communication from Him to them. Undoubtedly, a lot of people know many things about God, but they cannot actually know Him without access to Him. It is like a person knowing of someone from across town by reputation but really knowing nothing about him through personal contact.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[Communication and Leaving Babylon \(Part Three\)](#)

Related Topics:

[Adam and Eve](#)

[Communication](#)

[Communication With Spirit Influences](#)

The Berean: Daily Verse and Commentary for John 17:3 (<http://www.theberean.org>)

[Eternal Life](#)

[Justification](#)

[Relationship with Christ](#)

[Relationship with God](#)

[Sin](#)

[Sin Produces Separation](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2016 [Church of the Great God](#)
New King James Version copyright © 1982 by [Thomas Nelson, Inc.](#)