

# Chapter



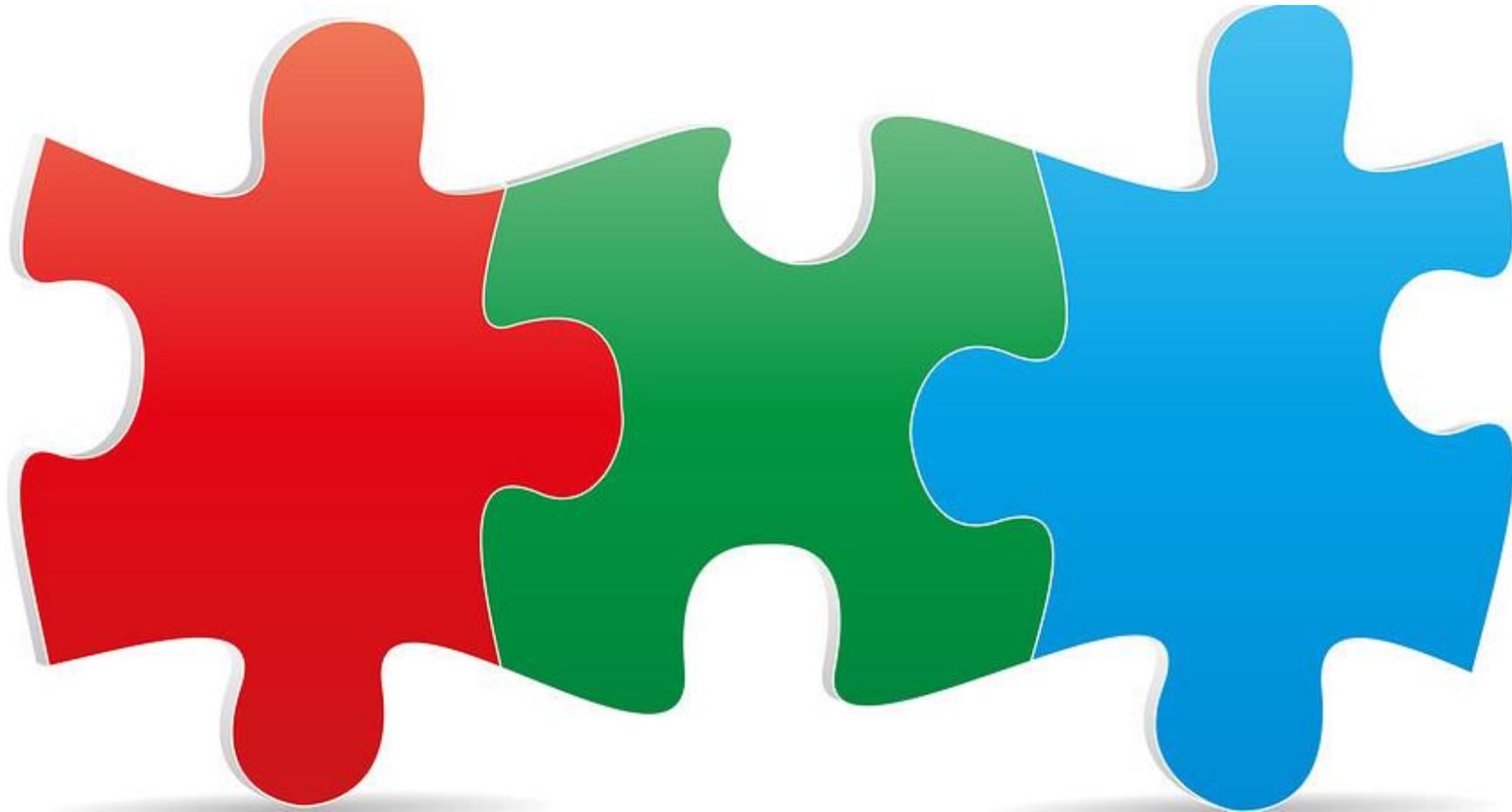
## Part 1

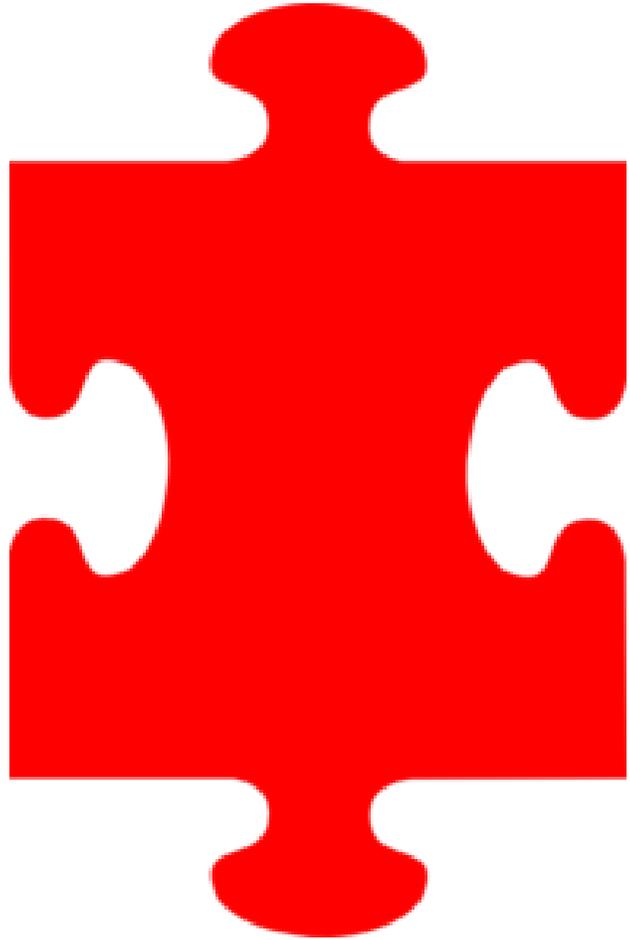
(v1-10)

**Paul paints a picture  
of our glorious God and  
our great salvation.**



**The picture that he paints has  
three major pieces...**





**The state of  
humanity before  
salvation.**

Paul begins  
describing our  
former manner  
of life.



Once you were **dead** because of your **disobedience** and your many **sins**. You used to live in **sin**, just like the rest of the world, obeying the **devil**—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. (v1-2)

All of us used to live that way,  
following the **passionate desires** and  
**inclinations** of our **sinful nature**. By our  
very nature we were subject to God's  
**anger**, just like everyone else. (v3)

Paul says that our former condition was **disobedient** & sinful, and was based primarily on our passionate **desires** and inclinations.

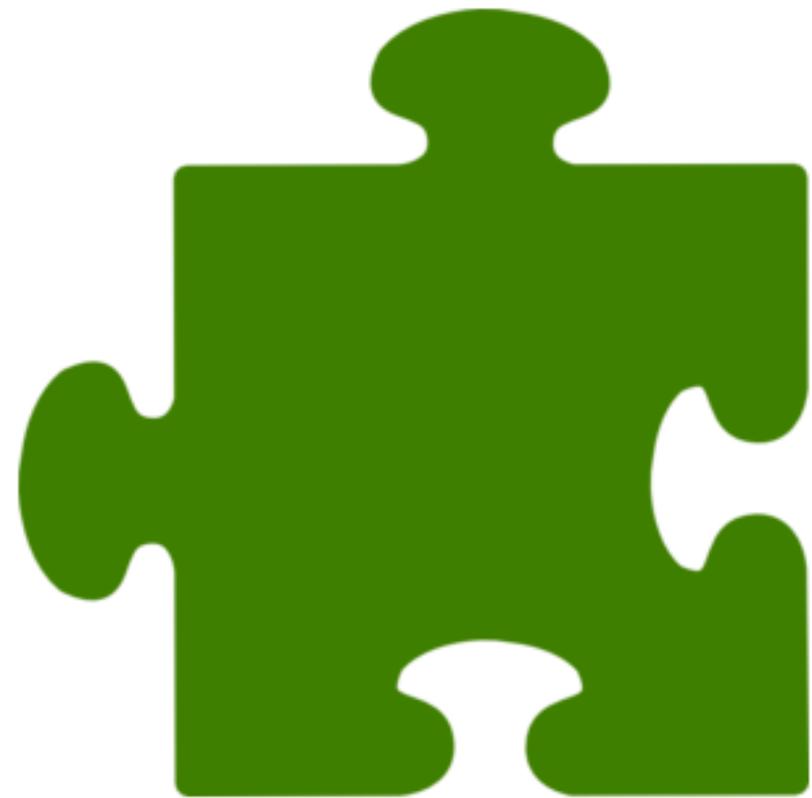


Paul says that our  
sinful condition  
flowed from our  
former position,  
which was under  
the wrath of God and  
under the power  
of the devil.



Paul says that we were just like  
everyone else, born into sin  
and controlled by our master, Satan...  
and our destiny was death.





**The grace of God  
shown to humanity  
at salvation.**

But God is so rich **in mercy**, and he **loved us** so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, he **gave us life** when he raised Christ from the dead. It is only **by God's grace** that you have **been saved!** (v4-5)



Paul begins to  
contrast our old life  
with our new life!

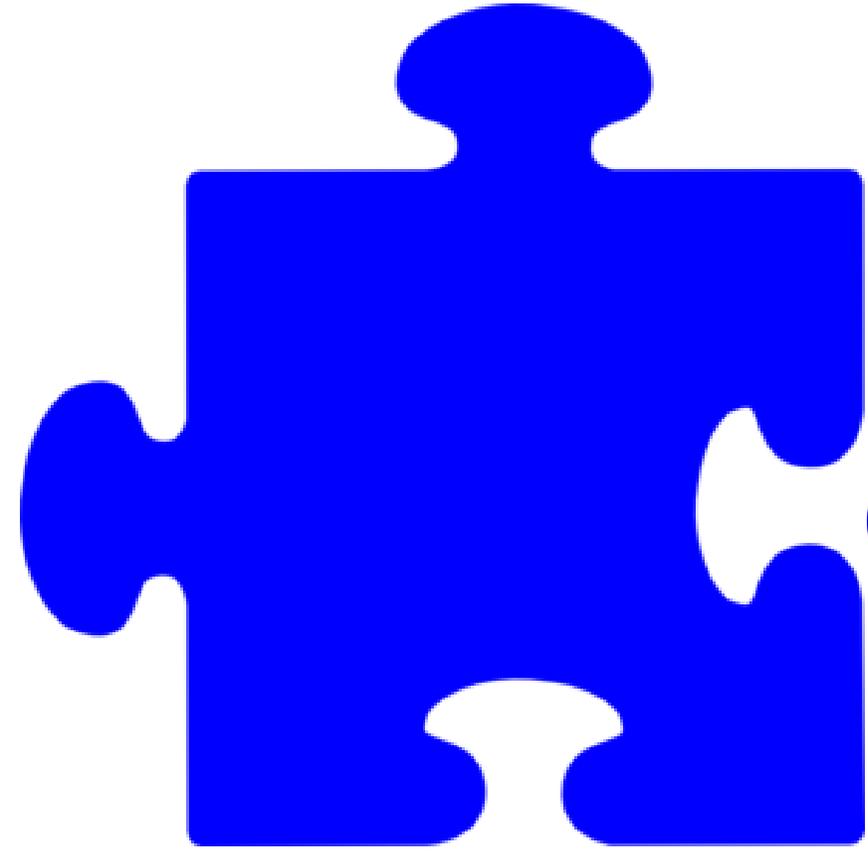
For **he raised us from the dead** along with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (v6)

Paul says that God,  
in his love, gave us a  
new life, a new  
position when he  
saved us through  
Christ.





Paul says that our new position is unto salvation and life... and the believer is now seated in the heavenly realms because they are united with Christ.



**The glory of God  
eternally on display  
after salvation.**

Paul now gives a  
startling reason for  
this incredible  
mercy shown to us  
in salvation...



*So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. (v7)*

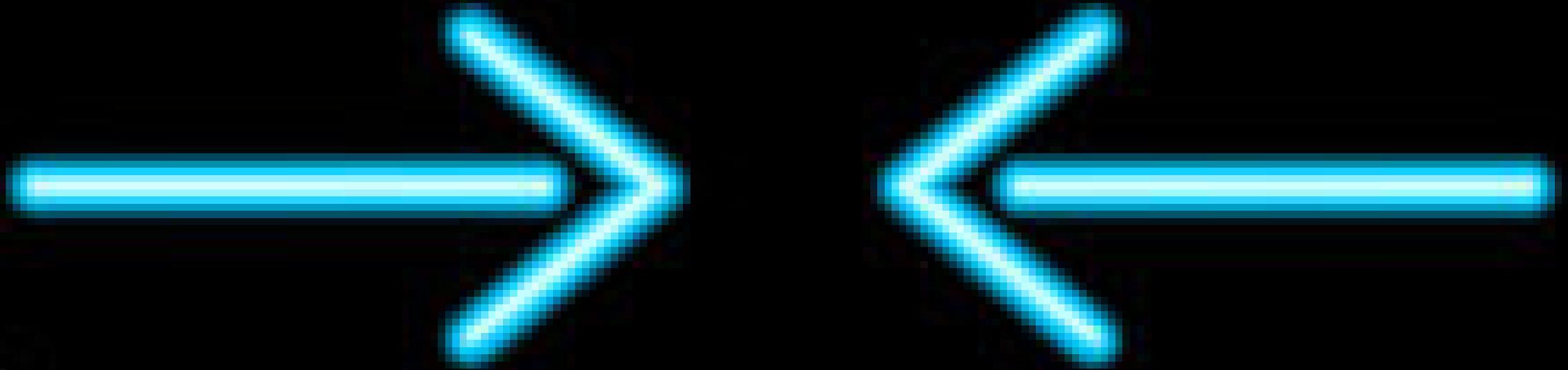
Paul says that God did all of this for us so that in eternity future God could use his mercy shown to us as a glorious display of his incredible kindness.



This may be a new concept for some...  
We are uncomfortable with the thought  
of God being God centered...



We think that if God is primarily  
for God, and his glory...  
he must somehow not be for us...



Furthermore, we think that if God is primarily for God that God is somehow selfish and self centered.



We know that it is wrong for us to be self-centered...and therefore project that it must be wrong for God.



First, if God is the  
**greatest & most glorious being**  
in all the universe, and if he is the  
ultimate reality in all the  
universe...

...then whoever is not first and foremost for God is an idolater, including God.

Meaning, if God was not first and foremost for himself and his glory... he would be putting something else in the place of what is supremely glorious, supremely worthy...

...and God would cease to be  
God...as he would be putting  
something of lesser worth in the  
place of supreme worth.

Therefore, when God is first and foremost for himself and his glory, he actually is upholding what is supremely worthy and is upholding what is right and true...therefore being by very nature what is means to be God. (Righteous)

Second, if God is the  
**greatest good in all the universe**  
and is the highest experience of  
love, kindness, joy, satisfaction...

...then whoever is pointing  
someone towards some other  
end is unloving,  
unkind...including God.

Meaning, if God is the  
greatest good in all the universe  
and the highest experience of  
love, joy and satisfaction...

...then the most loving thing  
would be to aim everything  
towards that being, that end.



God is the **only** being in all the  
universe that can be  
'self-centered'  
and not be egotistical.

God is the **only** being  
who can be 'self-centered'  
and also be 'others-centered'.

God is the **only** being who can be  
'others-centered' by bringing  
others to center on himself.

The absolute best thing for  
humanity, the absolute highest good  
for humanity and the absolutely  
most loving thing for them...  
is that they know this God...

...for he is the greatest good,  
the highest 'best' thing  
for all humans.

Therefore, when God does something to ‘display his glory’ or to ‘magnify his glory’ in the lives of humans, in order that he might be glorified more by them...

...he is not selfishly self-centered...  
he is lovingly working towards our  
highest good...and therefore  
displaying also the pinnacle of  
perfect love.

God is the one being in the entire universe for whom self-centeredness, or the pursuit of his own glory, is the ultimately loving act. For him, self-exaltation is the highest virtue.

When he does all things “for the praise of his glory,” he preserves for us and offers to us, the only thing in the entire world, which can satisfy our longings. God is for us, and therefore has been, is now and always will be, first, for himself.

Since God is unique as the most glorious of all beings and totally self-sufficient, he must be for himself if he is to be for us. If he were to abandon the goal of his own self-exaltation we would be the losers.

In view of God's infinitely admirable beauty, power and wisdom, what would his love to a creature involve? Or to put it another way: what could God give us to enjoy that would show him most loving?

There is only one possible answer, isn't there?

*Himself!* If God would give us that which is best and most satisfying, that is, if he would love us perfectly, he must offer us no less than himself.

**John Piper**

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

*(v8-9)*

Paul says that God saved  
us in this manner;  
by his grace, through faith,  
in Christ...as a free gift...  
and not by works in order  
that he alone would get  
the glory.



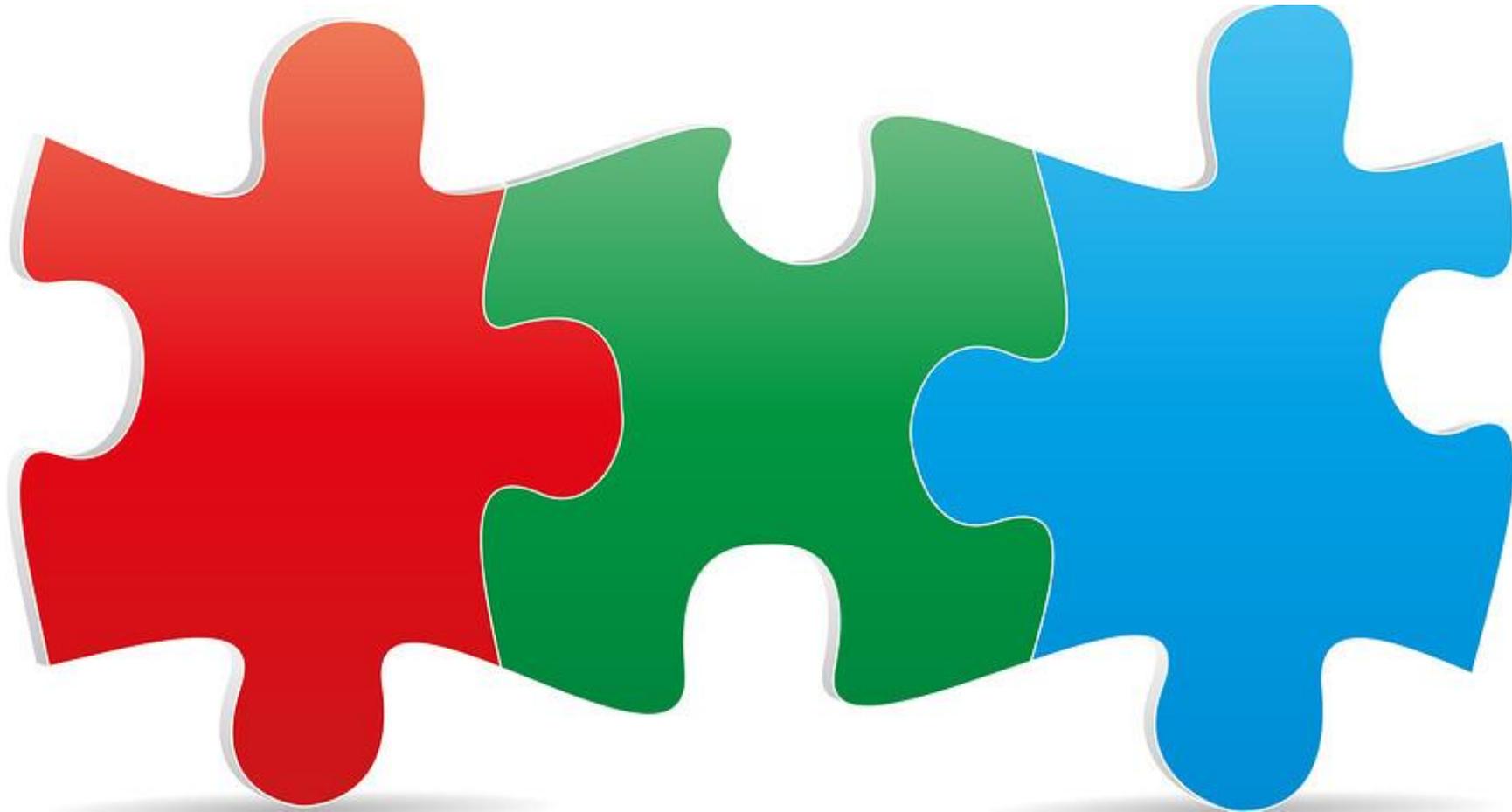
*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (v10)*

Paul says that God also gets  
glory through this process  
by making dead sinful  
people new & alive and  
enabling them to do God  
honoring things...



In this way, we become the painting  
of God...we become the tapestry that  
he is using to paint his glory across  
the universe for eternity.

**Let's put these  
three parts together...**



We were **dead** because of our **disobedience** and our many **sins**.

We were *sinfully* following the  
*passionate desires and inclinations*  
of our fallen *nature*

*But God **loved us** and in his **mercy**,  
he **gave us life** through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus.*

*God united us with Christ and  
made us new, and seated us in  
the heavenly realms.*

God saved us in such a way that it would be clear that it was he who **gave it** and not us who earned it.

God did all of this not only because of **his great love for us**, but also because of **his goal in glorifying himself for all eternity**.

*God determined that saving us in this way, and turning sinners into saints in this way, was the best way to display his glory in eternity.*

*God in his infinite wisdom planned to show mercy to humanity in such a way that he might paint a picture of his mercy, grace and power through those who believe... and that He would be admired and glorified by it for all of eternity.*

*Believers have now become the masterpiece of God. And their obedience in these preplanned good deeds continue to add to the eternal picture that God is displaying in eternity future.*

What this means is staggering.

What this means is life altering.

What this means is purpose for living...

This means that all of our thoughts,  
attitudes and actions matter...

This means that living out our new position,  
in our fallen condition matters...

This means that every thought, attitude and every action we have is eternal and weighty.

This means that everything we do is either adding to the tapestry of God's eternal glory or it is adding to the tapestry of self, misery, death and destruction.