

life without Him. Yet one day we shall ALL stand before God.

Hebrews 9v27 **And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.**

You must come to the Lord on His terms i.e. you are a sinner IN NEED of the Saviour!

Romans 3v23 **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**

John 3v16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Come to the Lord today - don't leave it a moment longer... The Lord Jesus Christ says in Matthew 11v28-30 **Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**

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The son I never was...

Like most parents, my dad always wanted me to be *somebody* and make *something* of my life. When I failed most of my exams at school, he changed towards me and showed from that day on, his disappointment in me. Once he was proud of me and proudly used to talk about me in front of his friends. Now he no longer does, and if forced to, will talk with contempt and even mock me when he can! *In his eyes I am a failure!*

Looking back, I find it very sad that if you don't or can't meet someone's expectations, you are no longer favoured by them. At times you can even be rejected by those who once loved you, but such is life and it happens all the time. Maybe you have been guilty of this, or like me, have found yourself in the same situation?

However this wasn't the biggest disappointment in my dad's life! On May 4th 1989 I became a Christian, and being brought up in an atheistic home, you can imagine how this was received. The evening I told my parents that I had asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me of all my sins, they went mad;



and the biggest argument we ever had, suddenly took place. The contention was so intense that I was forced to leave home for six months, I was eighteen years old at the time.

From then on my family life disintegrated and we never recovered. Those many happy childhood memories have now been clouded over. My dad and mum divorced when I was in my early twenties, not as a result of the decisions I had made, even though I'm sure they didn't help. Life certainly became a lot lonelier for all of us. I lost contact with my mother for over ten years and when I finally did try to find her, I found out she had died only a few months previously. Today I carry the burden of guilt and sadness, and those words IF ONLY, seem to haunt me oftentimes. The death of my mother also drove my dad and I further apart, and now he no longer wants anything to do with me. I'm sure he holds me to blame for much of what has happened in our family life. My sister also has chosen not to have any contact.

So is there a happy ending to this sad, but *true* story?

Well my family is still fragmented, but now I have been 'adopted' into a much larger family, one of which does not put benchmarks on education or success. One who accepts me for who I am, with no strings-attached!

Ephesians 1v5-7 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

Psalm 27v10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Romans 8v15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

You see, the Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven me of all my sins and all the mistakes I have made. He has adopted me into His family. I have a fresh start in life walking with God and being led by Him. I continually pray for my earthly father, that he too, will ask the Lord to forgive him of all his sins and become a Christian.

Even though I have experienced sadness in my family life, I can honestly say that I have NEVER been happier than I am now. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful wife, some great friends and a good job. I also have the privilege of leading the Oaks Church at Harvington - www.timefortruth.co.uk/the-oaks-church - preaching and teaching the Bible to all who come.

Life can seem like a roller-coaster at times with all its ups and downs, but now I know that no matter what I go through, the Lord Jesus Christ is there helping me and guiding me. He can do the same for you if you let Him!

So if you are experiencing hard times in your own life, why not ask the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive you of all your sins. Ask Him to come and sort out the problems you are facing, *no matter what they are*.

The trouble with most people today, is that they will not surrender to the Lord as sinners; they think they can get through