10 THEOLOGICAL MISCONCEPTIONS CHECKLIST

The Gospel of Being Human engages ten familiar theological perspectives that everyday Christians live from, wrestle with, or may not even be aware are shaping their understanding of God and themselves. Marty Solomon and Reed Dent explore how long-held ideas can be revisited with curiosity and care, creating space for readers to rediscover the depth, beauty, and goodness of God's story.



	THEOLOGICAL MISCONCEPTION	UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCE	LIFE-GIVING REFRAME	BIBLICAL ANCHOR
1	We are defined by our sin and separation from God.	We feel stuck in our shame, sin, and unworthiness, struggling to believe that God delights in us.	Scripture begins with our identity as made in God's image: we are fearfully and wonderfully made, created with purpose and beloved from the start.	Genesis 2:7–15; Psalm 139:13–16
2	Some people are more broken and beyond redemption than others.	We divide the world into "us" and "them," justifying contempt for others while assuming we are somehow more worthy of God's love.	We are all both beloved and broken, victims and perpetrators. Compassion grows when we approach others with curiosity, as image-bearers shaped by complex stories.	Genesis 3:8–13; Psalm 51:14
3	God does everything; we're just along for the ride.	We may feel passive in our spiritual life, disconnected from who we're called to be in God's mission.	God trusts people to be active participants in his redemptive story. Our agency matters in God's Kingdom.	Genesis 18:16-19; Hebrews 2:10-18
4	God has to punish sin before he can love us.	We see God as reluctant to love us, or believe he only loves us because Jesus intervenes.	God describes himself as compassionate, slow to anger, and full of forgiveness.	Exodus 34:5-7
5	God is for some kinds of people and against other kinds of people.	We become hostile to our enemies, assuming they are beyond God's grace.	God is for the flourishing of even those we fear or despise. His mercy is offered to all.	Jonah 3:8-10; 4:2

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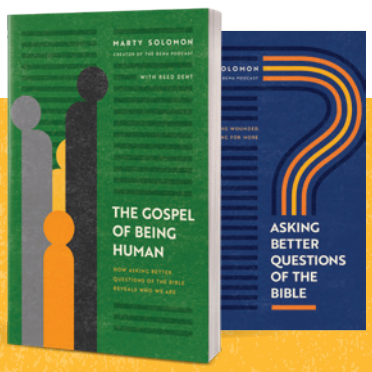
6	This world is broken beyond any repair; nothing we do here ultimately matters.	We may disengage from serving our community, advocating for the marginalized, and caring for the world around us.	Jesus left us with a calling: to build lives and communities that reflect his love, even in a messy world. What we build with our lives matters—it won't all be lost.	1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Colossians 1:15-20
7	God shows his strength through big wins and obvious victories.	We expect dramatic miracles or swift justice and miss how God is gently at work.	God's power often looks like humility, compassion, and presence. He draws us in with invitation and kindness, not force.	1 Kings 18 and 19; Philippians 2:5-11; 2 Corinthians 2:14-15
8	If life doesn't turn out right, we must have failed spiritually somehow.	We equate blessing with arrival or accomplishment, feeling like failures when our goals aren't met.	Relationship with God is the real reward. Even when we don't "arrive," we are never alone.	Romans 3:23, 26; 5:1, 8; 6:23; 8:1, 28-39
9	The solution to our sin problem is a step-by-step plan or fixed formula.	Our faith becomes an individual pursuit, disconnected from community and everyday life.	The gospel isn't about getting the right answers on a test. It's a lifelong journey of being drawn into God's love, learning to trust him more deeply, and discovering that grace meets us wherever we are.	Romans 3:23, 26; 5:1, 8; 6:23; 8:1, 28-39
10	Faith is just about going to heaven when you die.	Our faith becomes an individual pursuit, disconnected from community and everyday life.	Salvation isn't just about what happens after death. God invites us into shared purpose, restored relationships, and the Kingdom coming here and now.	Acts 16:25-34; the metanarrative of Scripture



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