

What Does It Mean to be Righteous?

The Bible's standard of human righteousness is God's own perfection in every attribute, every attitude, every behavior, and every word.

2Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

On the [cross](#), Jesus exchanged our sin for His perfect righteousness so that we can one day stand before God and He will see not our sin, but the holy righteousness of the Lord Jesus.

This means that we are made righteous in the sight of God; that is, that we are accepted as righteous and treated as righteous by God on account of what the Lord Jesus has done. He was made sin; we are made righteousness. On the cross, Jesus was treated *as if* He were a sinner, though He was perfectly holy and pure, and we are treated *as if* we were righteous, though we are defiled and [depraved](#). On account of what the Lord Jesus has endured on our behalf, we are treated as if we had entirely fulfilled the Law of God and had never become exposed to its penalty. We have received this precious gift of righteousness from the God of all mercy and grace. To Him be the glory!

Pursue Righteousness

[Proverbs 15:9](#) says, "The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness." If God wants us to pursue righteousness, then what about verses such as [Romans 3:10](#) that say, "There is none righteous, no not one"? If no one is righteous, then who can really pursue it? Are those verses contradictory?