

Scenario #1

I am a practicing homosexual. I know about God because we used to go to church when I was a kid. I am a 26 year old male. My younger sister has tried to commit suicide twice and I feel guilty for not being able to rescue her. My dad abandoned our family when I was 10 and is no longer a part of our lives. I feel safer around women and I have a codependent relationship with my mom.

I've had Christians tell me I am going to hell because I'm a homosexual. What do you have to say about that? Aren't you being judgmental?

Scenario #2

I am a 15 year old teenage girl who has older and younger siblings. My mom has been married twice and has had several different boyfriends. There's currently one staying at our house who yells and hits my mom. I'm afraid he's going to start yelling and maybe hitting me one day too. I am a terrible student and will try to control and manipulate everyone around me. I can act sweet to get what I want and then turn quickly on you swearing and yelling at you, blaming you for all the wrong in my life.

Why would God care about someone like me? I'm a nobody that no one ever gives interest to unless they want something from me. Right now I'm sleeping with my boyfriend because I want to feel loved. I don't have any real friends and push those away who try to be my friend or genuinely help me.

Scenario #3

I am a homeless male age 56 who has served in our military. I came home expecting a warm welcome, but instead came to find my wife living with another man and my kids are grown, living on their own, and want nothing to do with me. I've tried to get various jobs, but due to my PTSD I can't hold a job for very long. At first, they took away my car and soon I could no longer pay the rent. Now I sit here at Walmart with a cardboard sign hoping someone will notice me and give me some cash. I have no idea where my next meal is coming from, I try not to beg, but sometimes I get very desperate. I also need medication, but have no way to afford it. If I don't get my meds, I will go ballistic, get arrested, and put in the mental health ward until they can stabilize me. Once stabilized, they send me back out on my own.

I fight to survive the climate, others who are homeless, and any other "enemy" that comes to rob from me. I'm alone and have no hope. How can your God help me?

Scenario #4

I have grown up in the church. I'm a 40 year old female who is married, has a wonderful husband, and 3 kids who are my little angels. We go to church every week, volunteer for everything, and serve wherever we are needed on Sundays. We write big checks to the church and my weekly to do list is completed every week. Recently a friend told me in our women's Bible study that she has never seen a genuine smile on my face or has heard me laugh uncontrollably. I was offended. She even had the nerve to say that she thought most of my answers to Bible study

questions were "too churchy" and that my conversations are shallow. Don't even get me started about what she thought of my prayers...big, eloquent words, flowery and fluffy.

I know she was respectful and desired to help me see me, but I took offense. Rose-colored glasses...who does she think she's talking to? Perfect, sweet little angels who write on Sunday school classroom walls and take all the donuts. And my husband has been caught rolling his eyes when I jump up and say, "We'll do it!" to whatever task is being given. He might not want to do that? Not be an elder, usher, and men's group leader? Do we have fun together as a family? When was the last time I prayed for my husband, for my kids, for my neighbor across the street? How's my relationship with God?

What do you mean? I'm doing "everything" for God!