

Do You Have Enough Points?

Romans 3: 23-24 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus".

Ephesians 2: 1-9 – v.8-9 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast".

In many areas of life we can feel, or know, the need to try and "score points" to win favour and do well. But life with Jesus isn't like that. None of us can score enough points to meet God's standard, so Jesus has wiped the slate clean of all our point losses, and freely given us all his positive points.

Scene: Michelle sat down at table with 4 chairs round, using smart phone. Derek walks in carrying a Sainsbury's/Nectar magazine, looks over her shoulder, then sits next to her.

Derek: What are you doing?

Michelle: *(on smart phone)* I'm calculating my Weight Watchers Pro Points.... I weigh *(cough)* kilograms, and I'm 5 foot and 4 inches tall, aged *(cough)*, female, and I mostly sit during the day... My daily allowance is therefore... 26 Pro Points

Derek: And how many points are in that egg? *(pointing at Cadburys Dairy Milk Large Easter Egg on the table)*

Michelle: 50*

Derek: 50! Oh dear! Is there any way you can increase your daily points allowance?

Michelle: Yes. If I grow a foot taller, my allowance would go up from 26 to 27 points...

Derek: I'm sorry to tell you, but you do not have enough points to eat that egg...

Michelle: *(looks longingly and whines like a sad dog)*

Derek: Here, you can have my egg instead! – *(hands over tiny Kinder Surprise Egg*)*.

I've not got enough points either. I just topped up the car at BP, that's 1 point per 1 litre of fuel, and got 100 bonus points on my Nectar card, but I used a bunch in Sainsbury's for the bank holiday weekend shop, bringing my total down to 270 points, and you need at least 500 points to do anything with, so the Pizza Express voucher will have to wait.

Michelle: Don't talk to me about pizza!

Derek: Why? How many points is that?

Michelle: 20 points for a 12 inch Margherita...

Derek: I'm sorry, I don't have a mini pizza on me..

(Enter Geof)

Geof: See the game?

Michelle: The game of what?

Geof: Football League Championship. I got Yeovil in the sweepstake. They're bottom of the table with 37 points. Leicester City's still top of the table with 93 points...

Michelle: If I was Leicester City, I could eat that egg...

Geof: What??

Derek: Ignore her, she's pining after the 50 point egg

Michelle: Hang on, points in football? I thought they scored goals??

Geof: There are 24 teams in the League. During the season, between August and May, each team plays twice against the others in the league, once at 'home' and once 'away', resulting in each team competing in 46 games in total. Three points are awarded for a win, one for a draw and zero for a loss. The teams are ranked in the league table by points gained, then goal difference, then goals scored and then their head-to-head record for that season.

Michelle: I have no idea what you just said

Derek: He said, he's not got enough points!

(Enter Norman, carrying "The Message" version of Bible)

Geof: Hi Norman, are you watching the Championship match tomorrow?

Norman: Can't, I'm going to church

Geof: Church? On a Friday?

Norman: It's Good Friday, isn't it, you know, the start of the Easter weekend. There's a communion service on Friday, and then a celebration service on Easter Sunday.

Michelle: *(teasing him)* Look at him! He's scoring points, going to church twice in one weekend!

Geof: *(teasing him)* Is that how you manage to keep in with God, by being a good boy so you can earn enough points?!

Norman: I know that wouldn't work, even if I tried! The whole 1700 years of the Bible between Moses and Jesus is the story of how no one is good enough to score enough points to match God's standard.

- Geof:** Come on! Everything in life works on a points scheme. I forgot my wedding anniversary yesterday, lost ten points. Washed the windows this morning, gained 2 points back. Bought flowers, and I'm going to cook dinner tonight, that should get my points back into credit. If you're going to be religious, you must be aiming to stay in credit with God, keep those points up, stands to reason...
- Norman:** I know that's how people think, but it's not how God thinks. God knows we're not capable of keeping our points in credit, but He's not waiting for the end of our lives to say "told you so" and then punish us. Instead, Jesus has gathered up all the points we've lost and covered the cost of them Himself, so we're not left owing any points to God. And He's given us all of his "pro" points for free. Accepting this free gift from Jesus is the only way anyone of us ever has enough points to be in God's good books.
- Geof:** So, Jesus is running a points scheme after all. Just not a very logical one.
- Derek:** It's a very generous points scheme, not counting losses against us, and always ending with us having enough points, even though we haven't earned them ourselves
- Geof:** Oh no! Now he's getting his Bible out!
- Norman:** This is from "The Message" version of the Bible – Listen to this – the title of this passage is "God Has Set Things Right" - Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. What we've learned is this: God does not respond to what we do; we respond to what God does. (*Romans 3: 21-24 and 27-28*)
- Michelle:** I have a question...
- Norman:** What's that then?
- Michelle:** If I take Jesus' Pro Points, does that mean I can eat the egg?
- Others:** No!!

© Copyright Michelle Fogg, all rights reserved. This script may be performed free of charge, on the condition that copies are not sold for profit in any medium, including books, CDs and on the Internet. Authorship of Michelle Fogg should be acknowledged on any free copies made. <http://www.richmondparkchurch.org.uk/> This © Copyright notice must remain with this document at all times.

* *Cadburys Dairy Milk Large Easter Egg (343g) = 50 Pro Points!!!! (1817.9 cal)*

* *Kinder Surprise Egg (20g) = 3 Pro Points! (113 cal)*