Normally when we hear someone say, **"It's not you, it's me,"** we think of someone ending a relationship with someone else. They are implying that the problem is not with the other person, but with themselves.

However, in the case of our discussion today, the saying "It's not you, it's me," is referring to fixing a relationship with God. We are talking about removing enmity (or hostile division) between us and God. God's Word clearly tells us that this division "is not mended by what we can do for God, but by what God has done for all of us."

When we look at how we can be made right with God, people's first reaction is to look at themselves to see what they can do to change their life and become pleasing to God. But the simple fact of the matter is that there is **NOTHING** we can do in and of ourselves to bring us into a right relationship with God.

First, let's look at why. The apostle Paul said in the Bible: "we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20) To be reconciled to God means to be brought into a relationship of peace with God when there was previously enmity between you and God.

Why is every person who has ever lived at enmity with God, until they have been reconciled back to God?

Here is Why: **1.** There is **none** righteous, no **not one**. (Romans 3:10)

2. We are not righteous, because we are sinners. "For **all** have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

3. "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23) We have all earned wages for our sin. Not only does that include physical death, but also spiritual death. "And death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the **second** death. And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire." (Revelation 20:14-15) "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night." (Revelation 14:11)

So, what can you do for God in order to be saved from such a horrible fate? There is NOTHING you can do for God that could ever save you.

Here is Why: The Bible states, "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that **not of yourselves**, it is the gift of God, **not of works** lest any man should boast."(Ephesians 2:8-9) "**Not by works** of righteousness **which we have done**, but according to His mercy He saved us." (Titus 3:5)

The reason our works of righteousness could never merit God's favor for us to be saved is this: Isaiah 64:6 states, "But we are all as an unclean thing and **all our righteousnesses** are as **filthy rags**."

So, the best I can do, or you can do, or any prophet or apostle, or anyone else could attempt to do, is nothing but filthy rags to God. Our "good deeds" will **not** save us.

Most people think that they are not that bad, and that they are a good person. Maybe in other people's eyes, they are, but not in the eyes of a holy and just God. Briefly, let's look at some people in the Bible who most people would think were righteous. Let's see what they acknowledged about themselves so they could be saved.

The apostle Peter – Luke 5:8 – "He fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

The apostle Paul – In Philippians chapter 3, the apostle Paul basically states that if we could be saved by our own righteousness, he was as good as it gets. But his attitude toward **his** righteousness, in relation to being saved, was stated in Philippians 3:8: "I…count them but **dung**, that I may win Christ." Paul looked at his own righteousness as a big pile of foul, stinking crap! Excuse me, but that's what it says!

Mary who gave birth to Jesus –
Luke 1:46-47 – "And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in **God my Savior.**" You know who needs a savior? Sinners need a savior! That's everyone! Mary acknowledged her need for a savior. So must we!