

What do they have in common? They all earned big money. They are all big name celebrities and they are all dead. Many years ago there was a popular hit song called "American Pie." It contained the words: Did you

write the Book of Love? Do you have faith in God above? Do you believe in rock and roll? Can music save your mortal soul? Then repeated the words: This could be the day that I die . . . This could be the day that I die . . . Sobering, but true . . . this could be the day that I die. After all, approximately 140,000 people will die in the next 24 hours. The biblical explanation as to why each of us will die is fascinating. It says we have broken an uncompromising law. Just as we suffer the consequences of breaking the law of gravity if we step off a six story building, so we will suffer the consequences of transgressing God's Moral Law.

Let's see if you have broken this Law (commonly referred to as the Ten Commandments):

1. Is God first in your life? Do you love Him with all of your heart, mind, soul, and strength? Do you love your neighbor as yourself? Does your love for your family seem like hatred, compared to the love you have for the One who gave those loved ones to you?
2. Have you made a god in your own image, to suit yourself?
3. Have you ever used God's holy name in vain, substituting it for a four-lettered filth word to express disgust?
4. Have you kept the Sabbath holy?

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5. Have you always honored your parents?
6. Have you hated anyone? Then the Bible says you are a murderer.
7. Have you had sex before marriage? Or have you lusted after another person? The Bible warns that you have committed adultery in your heart.
8. Have you ever stolen something? Then you are a thief.
9. If you have told even one lie, you are a liar, and cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Finally, have you ever desired something that belonged to someone else? Then you have broken the Tenth Commandment. Listen to your conscience. The Law leaves us all sinners in God's sight. On Judgment Day we will be found guilty, and end up in Hell forever. Perhaps you are sorry for your sins, and you even confess them to God. But that doesn't mean that He will forgive you—no matter how sincere you are. Let me explain why. Imagine you are standing guilty in front of a judge. You face a \$50,000 fine, and say, "Judge, I'm truly sorry for my crime." He would probably say, "So you should be! Now are you able to pay the \$50,000 fine or not?" A judge must have grounds upon which he can release you. If I paid your then you would be free from the demands of the law. That's precisely what God did in the person of Jesus Christ. Each of us stands guilty of breaking God's Law, but because Jesus paid our fine on the cross 2,000 years ago, God can forgive us on the grounds of His suffering death. That's why you need Jesus Christ as your Savior. Without Him, the Law will send you to Hell, and you will have no one to blame but yourself. God will make sure justice is carried out.

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