

How Can a Good God Send Anyone to Hell?

Can I Ask That In Church? - Part 3

May 21, 2023

How can a good God send anyone to hell?

What is the purpose of using hell to scare people into acting right?

Hell is not a tactic from God to manipulate, scare and control people.

*“Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that His **kindness** is intended to turn you from your sin?” Romans 2:4 (NLT)*

God is not interested in behavior modification. He desires heart transformation.

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT)

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

*“³⁶Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” ³⁷Jesus replied, “You must **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment.” Matthew 22:36-38 (NLT)*

Hell is real. It is simply the complete and forever absence of God.

*“⁷ ... He will come with his mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who **refuse** to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with **eternal** destruction, **forever separated** from the Lord and from His glorious power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NLT)*

Hell is something that God does not desire for anyone.

*“Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to **turn** from their wicked ways and **live**.” Ezekiel 18:23 (NLT)*

God doesn’t send anyone to hell. We chose it ourselves.

“God is a righteous judge ... ” Psalm 7:11 (NIV)

God won’t force anyone who doesn’t want to be with Him in this life to be with Him forever in the next.

How does a life of sin warrant an eternity in hell?

“²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ... ²³For the wages of sin is death ... ” Romans 3:23, 6:23 (NLT)

God’s Word doesn’t say: *You better be good or you’re going to hell!*

God’s Word does say: *I love you and I died in your place so you could live!*

Good News (The Gospel in 4 Words)

- God
- Man
- Jesus
- Faith

Heaven isn't for good people. Heaven is for forgiven people.

*“²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, in His grace, freely makes us right in His sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they **believe** that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood. ... ²⁶God did this to demonstrate His righteousness, for He Himself is **fair and just**, and He makes sinners right in His sight when they **believe** in Jesus. ²⁷Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on **faith**. ²⁸So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.” Romans 3:23-28 (NLT)*

*“For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is eternal **life** through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NLT)*

*“¹⁶For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not **perish** but have eternal **life**. ¹⁷God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:16-17 (NLT)*