

## QUESTION 5: WHY WOULD GOD SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?

### *Motivation:*

Try to get at the motivation and thinking behind the question.  
What heart-issues might be underlying this question?

### *Possible Questions / Responses:*

- *Why do you ask that? Can you explain why you are considering that question?*
- *Is there someone you're concerned about, or do you ask about yourself?*
- *The question might be rephrased, "Why should you be let into heaven?"*
- *"Would you allow me a moment to share my foundational thinking on which I base my belief system and my response?"*
- *Would you mind if I speak for a moment about some assumptions that I believe?*

### *Example for Consideration:*

*Have you ever known someone who lost a child or children to a drunk driver? Or have you known of someone running from the law in their car and they hit a killed a family? How did that make you feel? Was there a demand or longing within you for justice?*

People have a strong internal response to injustice – particularly when it is directed against them personally, but particularly too, when such actions are against those we deem innocent parties. We desire to see justice served.

### *Key Points:*

- ✓ Hell / justice link: Without justice you can do anything you want and not be held responsible.
- ✓ Implications: If there is not God, anything is permissible. God has set boundaries.
- ✓ Holiness of God: incompatibility of sin in His presence
- ✓ Misconception: Most people think they are good enough to get to heaven. Truth – only Jesus is good.
- ✓ Misconception: view of hell – demons with pitchforks, torture (a medieval conception); the reality of it - all the goodness, influences of God removed
- ✓ Misconception: 'loving someone' infers total acceptance and overlooking anything done wrong.
- ✓ Nature of Sin: God takes sin seriously; people tend to minimize it.

- ✓ Consequences of Sin: Temporal, but eternal ones as well
- ✓ The Human Condition: Some people spend their lives running from God; He will not force them to spend eternity with Him.
- ✓ God's Character: God is love and is merciful, but with that there is justice.
- ✓ Man's Choice: Hell highlights the dignity of man's choice – i.e. their free will. God does not send people to hell; they choose it.

#### *Scriptures:*

- Ten Commandments [[Exodus 20:1-17](#)]- guilty as a law breaker; don't deserve in heaven
- Sermon on the Mount [[Matthew 5-7](#)] – *actions & attitudes* result in guilt; heart issue
- God alone is good [[Mark 10:18](#)]
- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked [[Ezekiel 33:11](#)]
- God desires that all would be saved [[1Timothy 2:4](#)]
- All accountable for their situation before God [[Romans 1](#)]
- God invites, but we choose to accept or reject. [[John 3:16](#)]

#### *Key Practices:*

- Identify with the person: We are all broken and guilty of offending God
- Emphasize the positive: Hell is mentioned a couple of dozen times in the NT, but heaven is mentioned throughout the Scriptures, and heaven is compared to marriage of Christ with His bride, i.e. the church/believers. Such an offer of relationship with the presence with God!
- Premises - broken world, *ALL* are broken and sin; sin results in separation from God; we *ALL* deserve justice and exclusion from God's presence – and ultimately, heaven; God provided solution in Jesus' death on cross; conditional turning from our way of life in submission and repentance with faith to God as our own 'king', and submitting to God's rule and leading in our lives; God provides for, and welcomes reconciliation.
- God's goodness: God sees our actions, but also into our heart and mind. While knowing all of our thoughts, He invites us into relationship with Him

#### *Word of Encouragement / Invitation:*

My hope is that all would discover the amazing relationship they can have with God and the life that He offers, and that they would understand what that relationship looks like, and that God offers it freely.

The Lord's presence is constant; it is our acceptance of it that varies.