

Why Would A Loving God Send People To Hell?

Questioning Christianity | Week 3 | Matthew 7:13-14

INTRODUCTION

In the early years of my ministry, I'd try to give politically correct answers to the question: How could a loving God send people to Hell? I'd attempt to soften the justice of God, saying things like, "Well, God doesn't actually send people to hell...He just allows them to go there." But the longer I've read my Bible and the more I've studied the Scriptures, the more I realize that our God is a God of love and grace and mercy, but He's also a God of justice – and as a holy and righteous Judge, He is fully committed to carrying out His justice. With this in mind, today's message is going to show us two very important truths about God that we need to understand: God is a loving God, and God is a just God.

KEY POINTS

1. God Is a Loving God

You might be thinking, "That's not very loving of God to send people to hell. Doesn't the Bible say that God is love?" It does. But get this: Because God loves us, He gave us the choice to love.

The Bible says that we are all sinners. We were born in sin. But we also have a choice in how we respond to that sin. We can either repent from that sin and surrender to Jesus, or we can live in our sin and refuse to follow Jesus.

2. God Is a Just God

Romans 2:11 says, "*For there is no favoritism with God.*" That means, in God's justice, He doesn't show partiality. He's consistent and good.

It seems to me that most people who have a problem with hell are actually just people who have a problem with God's justice. For instance, people tend to question God's justice when:

- The judgment seems offensive. We like justice when it's convenient, but we don't like it when it's personal.
- The verdict seems unfair. We see ourselves as inherently good. We think, "Hell is good for murderers and members of Hamas, but it's not good for Grand Pappy who was a nice man and fought in the war but never surrendered his life to Jesus."

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you ever wondered how God can be a loving God but also send people to hell? Describe your thought process around this reality.
2. When was a time you questioned God's justice or tried to define justice for yourself?
3. Who is someone in your life who has yet to place their faith in Jesus that you can witness to this week?
