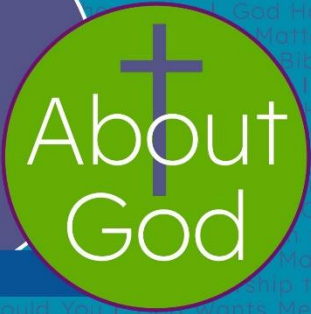




Ephesians 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

2 Peter 1:21 Prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 2:4 [God our Savior] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 John 2:2 [Jesus Christ] is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

No Hell?

1. How does the Bible describe hell?

Matthew 25:46 “Then [those on his left] will go away to eternal punishment.”

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

Isaiah 66:24 “They will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

Matthew 25:30 “Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

2. Your friend asks you, “If hell is real, where is it?” How would you answer?

3. Why will some go to hell? Is it because some are “good” or “better”?

John 3:17-18 “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

Luke 23:43 Jesus answered [the dying criminal], “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Revelation 20:12, 15 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. [...] ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

4. How is the concept of “no (or temporary) hell and everyone (eventually) goes to heaven” illogical and unfair?

Matthew 25:46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him who said, ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ and again, ‘The Lord will judge his people.’

2 Thessalonians 1:6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you.

Isaiah 61:8 “For I, the LORD, love justice: I hate robbery and wrongdoing.”

5. Think about it! If there were no hell, what would be the practical implications for your life? (i.e., how would your life and attitude change?)

6. How can we say that hell is evidence of God's love for us?

Matthew 27:46 “About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).”

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Romans 11:22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

Group Discussion

1. Will there be degrees of torment in hell (as there are degrees of glory in heaven)?

Luke 12:47-48 “That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”

Matthew 11:20-24 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles

that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”

2. Why don't people want to believe that God would send people to hell? List as many reasons as you can and then evaluate those reasons.

3. Evangelical Christian author Rob Bell wrote in his book *Love Wins*: “Has God created millions of people over tens of thousands of years who are going to spend eternity in anguish? Can God do this, or even allow this, and still claim to be a loving God? Does God punish people for thousands of years with infinite, eternal torment for things they did in their few finite years of life?” (p. 88). In your estimation, what does he believe about hell, and what would you say to him?