



Q #11 Why would (how could) a loving God send people to Hell? How can a loving God be so full of anger and wrath that He'd send someone to hell forever? And what about those who have never heard about Jesus and Christianity? Will God send them to hell?

**As to why would and how could a loving God send people to hell...**

1. **First**, recognize that an afterlife with no negative consequences for bad done in this life is the extreme minority position.
  - A. Belief in a God of love who accepts people regardless of their beliefs and practices is unique to modern Western man. Such a God does not exist in any world religion.
  - B. Christianity teaches that the consequences of wrongdoing go on for eternity.
2. **Second**, God does not *send* people to hell, people choose to stay on course for hell and ultimately to wind up there if they do not repent and trust Christ.
  - A. Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world, but to save it.
  - B. Without Jesus, everyone would go to hell because of choices he has made.
  - C. People choose the complete and forever absence of God, which is hell. 2 Thes. 1:8-9
  - D. Hell is a location where evil will be quarantined from the universe forever.
3. **Third**, God reveals His love in part through His anger and wrath at sin, and through His punishment of sinners.
  - A. God's wrath flows from His love and delight in His creation. He is angry at evil and injustice because it is destroying creation. *There is no love without wrath.*
  - B. A wrathless God cannot be a loving God. Any loving person is often filled with wrath.
  - C. God's loving nature does not erase or remove His holiness, justice and wisdom. God is holy and will not allow sin into His heaven. And in His justice, God will punish sin.
 

POINT: The problem isn't that God doesn't *want people*.  
The problem is that people don't want God *or* they want Him on their own terms.
  - D. Hell is necessary and just because evil needs to be quarantined and separated away from good eternally.
    - People don't want holiness and heaven.  
People don't want to admit their sin, confess it and repent of it.  
Most people want to be granted access into heaven without repentance.
    - What would you call a place where people who do not want to confess and repent of their sin live forever? What would you call a place where over time people become worse that they could in only 70 or 80 years...a place where no one will confess and repent for centuries, for millennia, forever? I'd call that hell.

**As for those who have never heard about Jesus and Christianity... will God send them to hell?**

1. **First**, God will judge every person, but no one will be judged for not hearing about Christ.
  - A. Everyone is a sinner and as such is separated from God.  
Our problem is sin and separation. God's solution to mankind's sin and separation problem is Jesus in mankind's place on the cross.
  - B. It's like everyone has the same spiritual terminal illness, but God has provided the cure!

2. **Second**, a common objection is that it doesn't seem fair that God will judge people who never even had a chance to trust in Jesus Christ.

A. LOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- That I think something is unfair does not mean that it is untrue.
- If those who have never heard about and therefore never believed in Christ are going to be saved from the penalty for sin (separation from God) anyway, then Jesus death and resurrection should be kept a secret.
- Jesus said that He came "to save the lost" (Luke 19:10). But **logically** if people who have never heard about Him are saved until they hear about Him and refuse to believe in Him, then in reality He came to lose the saved!
- People who think that anyone can get to heaven without Christ, underestimate the filthiness of sin and the holiness of God. **Logically**, if people can get to heaven without Christ, then people can get to heaven without righteousness, perfect holiness and sinless perfection. No person has this on his own, and only Jesus Christ can provide it.

B. BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- The Bible says a lot about God's character, and it describes Him as fair and just.
  - The Bible says a lot about mankind's character, and it describes us as sinful and rebellious.
3. **Third**, the Bible says that apart from Christ, God's wrath remains on all people because of sin.
- The Bible teaches that the final judgment is based on deeds for all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life. All who died without trusting in Christ to pay the price for their sins will have to pay their own price for their own sins. (Rev. 20:11-15) Sinners will be judged and condemned.
  - The price has already been paid by Jesus, and His payment will be applied to every person who trusts Him for it.

4. **Fourth**, the Bible says that people are responsible to respond to God on the basis of what He has revealed to them, in light of what they do know, but most don't.

- A. Creation shows people that God exists. Through the creation people understand enough about God to seek Him, if they should want to.  
So all of us are without excuse.
- B. Conscience warns us about what is right and what is wrong.
- C. God promises to reveal Himself to anyone who seeks Him.
- D. Jesus is the ultimate communication from God to people.  
Jesus came to seek and to save lost mankind.

**Message**

God is so loving and just that He will quarantine evil in hell forever.

**Action Points: Discuss which seems more unfair to you:**

That someone *never* hears the good news that Jesus died for their sins  
**or**

that someone who does hear the good news that Jesus died for their sins, rejects His sacrifice in their place and refuses to repent and place their faith Him.

**Which seems more unfair to you:**

That someone *never* hears the good news that Jesus died for their sins  
**or**

that someone who does hear and believe the good news that Jesus died for their sins, disobeys God by not telling others who have never heard.

Some of your friends are *“those who have never heard”* the good news that Jesus died for their sins. **Write down the names of five friends** with whom you share your story. Maybe invite them to the FTC NFL Tailgate party on Monday Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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