

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

One of the participants on the video said,

“I am at ease with taking the burdens of my own sins, I don’t need somebody else to relieve that for me. I don’t need to think about an afterlife, because I’m scared to live this life. There is a famous quote that says, ‘People who live a full life aren’t scared to die.’ And for me, I’m living a full life and I’m not scared to take the brunt of my sins, I’m not scared to do what I need to do to live this life.”

Do people you know feel like this? What is your reaction to this statement?

How would you help someone to reconcile the fact that the Bible seems to be making two contradictory statements: that God is a God of love and a God of wrath?

One of the participants on the video said,

“Hell and heaven exist now... In any moment when your actions are negative or the influence is coming from, ‘I want to do what I want to do,’ instead of from the larger picture, you are in a sort of hell, because your ego has taken over. Whereas you are in heaven more when you are really compassionate and acting with others.”

Do people you know feel this way? Is this true?

The Bible has many things to say about heaven and hell. So does the popular press. It is worth distinguishing between the two. Each member of the group should find one verse or passage in the Bible about heaven and one about hell. Share these with the entire group. Then, summarize what you have learned from the verses you found.

The Bible describes hell as:

- “punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power” — 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- “where the fire never goes out,”
“their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched” — Mark 9:43,
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- “darkness” — Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Peter 2:17; Jude v. 13
- “fiery lake of burning sulphur,” “lake of fire” — Revelation 19:20; 21:8; 20:10, 14 – 15
- “beaten with many blows” — Luke 12:47
- “weeping and gnashing of teeth” — Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30

Do people you know feel this way? Is this true?

Some Christians make the argument that nobody goes to hell unless they want to. Is this true? Explain.