

Reason for God: Chapter Five: How Can a Loving God Send People to Hell?

Terry Wimberley

FPCA

A God of Judgment Can't Exist

- Divine Justice is one of Christianity's most offensive doctrines.
- Some argue that a God of Judgment can't exist.
- In Pre-Modern times there was a belief in a transcendent – supernatural - order beyond the self.
- Violating that order brought consequences.
- Modernity has prioritized the natural world over the supernatural world.

Who Decides Right And Wrong?

- Modernity gave people the freedom to rationally distinguish between right and wrong.
- Keller asks why Western sensibilities should be the final court deciding the acceptability of Christian standards and values.

A God of Judgment Can't Be a God of Love

- “If God were not at injustice and deception and did not make a final end to violence – that God would not be worthy of worship. (Miroslav Volf – Yale Theologian)
- He argues that it is the lack of belief in God’s vengeance that fuels violence.
- Volf argues that “if I don’t believe in a God that makes justice then I am left to take vengeance in my own hands and do what God will not.”

A Loving God Will No Allow Hell

- Hell is the trajectory of one living a self-absorbed life.
- One's self chosen identity in the absence of choosing God.
- All those in Hell chose to be there.

Hell and the Equality of People

- Arguably perceiving any group as headed for Hell betrays a degree of inequality in status.
- Keller argues that there is an equality in human choice and some can choose for Hell and some will not