



HOW CAN A LOVING GOD SEND PEOPLE TO HELL?

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Does God have a _____ to _____?

Biblical perspective: _____

...because He is _____

(Psalms 99; Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 1:15; Revelation 4:8)

...because He _____ all things

(Genesis 1; Isaiah 45; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11)

...because He is perfectly _____ in his _____ (full of compassion and love)

(1 Samuel 15:29; James 1:17)

...because He is perfectly _____ in all his _____

(Genesis 18:25; Deuteronomy 32:4; Daniel 4:37; Revelation 15:3)

Is righteous _____ opposed to _____?

Biblical perspective: _____

Judgment is a key part of God's _____ of all things – especially his relationship with people

(Matthew 19:27; Isaiah 49:8; Ephesians 1:10; Revelation 21)

Righteous judgment is an _____ from a God who does not want to _____ as we are...

(Psalms 71:20; John 15:1-2; Hebrews 12:6)

Is Hell predominantly (exclusively?) a _____ reality that people are _____?

Biblical perspective: _____

Hell is a state of _____ from God – separation from the source of all hope, joy, love peace and, ultimately, _____.

(Isaiah 59:2; Luke 16:26; Romans 5:12)

The state of separation from God is _____ and _____ in the earth today.

Hell, after our mortal bodies die, is simply the finalization of a reality that we have made normal during our lives...

(Luke 13:25-27)

...we've been _____ for it.

Is God's heart _____ with people being _____ from Him?

Biblical perspective: _____

"Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: You are saying, 'Our sins are heavy upon us; we are wasting away! How can we survive?' As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die? Ezekiel 33:10-11 NLT

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2Peter 3:8-9 NIV

This is ultimately exemplified in the person of _____.

(Luke 19:10; John 3:16; Romans 5:12-17)

Why won't God _____ over people in order to _____ them?

Biblical perspective: because God's ultimate purpose is not to _____ and "have his way" with subservient creatures, but to invite those who are created in his image to enjoy and unhindered _____ with Him.

(Genesis 1:27; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

...and love isn't love unless it is _____, _____ and _____.

(Deuteronomy 30:20; Mark 12:29-30; Luke 14:15-24; 1 Timothy 6:6-12)

Hearing this, a man sitting at the table with Jesus exclaimed, "What a blessing it will be to attend a banquet in the Kingdom of God!"

Jesus replied with this story: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servant to tell the guests, 'Come, the banquet is ready.' But they all began making excuses. One said, 'I have just bought a field and must inspect it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought five pairs of oxen, and I want to try them out. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I now have a wife, so I can't come.'

"The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was furious and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and invite the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'" Luke 14:15-24 NLT

Resources for Further Study:

- *Erasing Hell: What God Said about Eternity, and the Things We've Made Up* by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle (book)
- *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis (book)
- *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller (book - chapter 5)
- *"I Have a Friend Who... Believes a Good God Wouldn't Send People to Hell"* by Scott Scruggs (Sermon/podcast - Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, Jan 12, 2014)
- *Life's Toughest Questions: Is There A Hell?* by Erwin McManus (Mosaic Audio Podcast - Sept. 17, 2006)