

are also limited in our capacity to understand who God is. The bottom line is this – God judges sin because he is holy and loves all that is good, right, and beautiful. Because sin is rebellion against God and damages the world God created, its good and right that sin is condemned and judged. Its good and right that those who sin are punished for their sin.

Discussion Questions

- Have you heard this objection to hell before? If so, how did you respond?
- Have you heard any other objections to the doctrine of hell?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Yesterday we looked at the most common objection to the doctrine of hell- God is loving, so why would he allow hell? The question behind the question is this – is sin really that bad? The answer is a resounding “YES.” We began looking at this week’s catechism question and answer by discussing the first sin- one sin that caused judgement for the entire human race. This one sin caused death and judgement to enter into the human story. The one sin was enough for all of mankind to fall, and God is justified in punishing the wicked for each sin committed. But the story doesn’t end there. In the same sentence where God pronounces judgement, He offers hope. God promises to the woman that someday there would be one who would come from her line who would destroy Satan, sin, and the death that began the day he deceived the woman and the man in the garden. Then the scripture gives us a wonderful expression of faith. Until the curse pronounced by God, the scripture refers to Adam’s wife as “the woman.” But in Genesis 3:20 we read *The man called his wife 's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* Subtly, but clearly Adam expresses his faith that while, he indeed would someday die, human history would not end with him. Judgment was certain to come, but there would be a day when Eve’s offspring would come. He would bear the full weight of God’s curse for sin. All those who would look to him would not find judgment due for the sins they committed, but grace and forgiveness on the day of judgement.

Discussion Questions

- Who was the one who was promised and believed in all the way back in Genesis?
- If one sin against God is enough to condemn us for all eternity, what is the one way that we can escape the judgement? Who else do we know that needs to hear this good news?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 30th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #42

Q: But what shall be done to the wicked at their death?

A: *The souls of the wicked shall, at their death, be cast into the torments of hell, and their bodies lie in their graves, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.*

Suggested Memory Verse

Psalm 49:14 Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

All the way back at the beginning, God gave Adam and Eve a command. The command came with a warning about consequences of disobedience. *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* Genesis 2:16-17. The spiritual death of Adam and Eve occurred at the moment of disobedience. The union and fellowship that they enjoyed with God was broken, and though they did not experience physical death until later, they had fallen. Adam and Eve, along with all of their posterity, would experience the result of God’s judgement. All mankind would die. Because of their disobedience, all mankind is now born under God’s judgement. Our nature, which was created after the likeness of God in holiness, was distorted by sin. Rather than wanting to please God, our desire is now bent towards evil. This results in all kinds of evil being manifest in our lives, with each sin deserving God’s judgement. For the wicked, that is, all those who do not trust in the saving power of Jesus Christ, the final and ultimate judgement of sin takes place in Hell. This place of judgement and eternal punishment is called the “second death,” which is death in the fullest sense of the word. Hell is the final expression of God’s wrath against sin.

Discussion Question

- As Christians, are there any benefits to thinking about Hell?
- For those who have trusted in Jesus’ power to save us from the consequences of our sin, how does the thought of Hell and eternal punishment keep us from sin?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The catechism question this week speaks of an intermediate state “till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.” Similar to the fate of believers, the wicked are separated from their bodies at death. The body is in the grave, but the spirit of the wicked is cast into the torments of hell at the moment of death. While the believer is in a place of eternal bliss, awaiting their acquittal on day of judgement, the wicked are in a place of torment, awaiting their condemnation. Just at the believer will stand before the throne of God and be publicly acknowledged as one who belongs to God, so the wicked will stand before the throne of God and be publicly condemned. There is a sense in which all of human history reaches it’s culmination at the day of judgement. The final day of judgement speaks to both a corporate and personal fate. All of humanity, both the dead and the living await a day of final judgment. And on that that day, the book will be opened, and each one of us will give and account before the creator of what we have done. Revelation describes the scene like this: *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.* Revelation 20:12.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think that there is a period time in between death and final judgement?
- How do you feel when you think about standing before God on judgement day?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

What does the bible tell us about hell? The biblical writers give us a detailed and chilling description about the fate those who reject Christ and fall under God’s final judgement. First, hell is a place of physical and mental anguish. Jesus told a story about the fate of a man who lived his life in luxury, without a care for the poor and needy that lived at his doorstep. This man was judged and cast into hell. *In Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’* Luke 16:23–24. In a parable, Jesus describes hell as a place of conscious existence. Those who are under God’s eternal judgment are aware of what is happening to them. In bitter anguish over their rebellion, the wicked are left to in their sinful state and the eternal weight of consequence for their rejection of Christ. *In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out.* Luke 13:28. Finally, we learn that there is no escape from hell, that is punishment that continues without end. *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.* 2 Thessalonians 1:9

Discussion Questions

- What aspect of hell do you find most disturbing? Is it the eternal nature, the physical and mental anguish, or the awareness of the person under Gods’ punishment?
- Why do you think that the descriptions of hell are so explicit?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The main objection to the doctrine of hell is an appeal to God’s love. The bible certainly affirms God’s love! God’s love and forgiveness are in fact the only basis for a Christian’s hope of avoiding hell. However, God’s love rightly understood is never divorced from his other attributes. The reason why we believe God’s love isn’t independent of his other attributes is because God is simple. Not simple in the way we commonly understand the word. But simple in the sense that God is not made up of parts. Humans, by contrast are complex, and are also changeable. One moment we feel anger, the next joy. We may feel pride, mixed with resentment. Or our excitement about an event can override our pain or sadness. Not so with God. God’s love is perfect and unchanging. His love doesn’t negate his holiness and moral perfection. His judgment and wrath are therefore a perfect expression of his love. This is difficult for us to comprehend because we think of God in human terms and