NCFCA Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #12



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (PART 4 OF 4)

22. How can a loving God let my mom die of cancer?\*

23. Respond to the person who says, "I'm not sure I'm saved because I never had a dramatic conversion experience."

24. Respond to the person who asks, "Why would I want to be a Christian when Christians are such a mess?"\*

25. Hasn't science disproven Christianity?

26. Why do so many Christians live lives that look no different than non-believers?

27. Respond to the question "If the Bible has all the answers, why are there so many denominations?\*

28. Do miracles like the ones in the Bible still happen today?\*

29. If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?

30. Why would a loving God send people to hell?

31. Respond to the person who asks, "Isn't it arrogant to claim to know the truth?"

32. Respond to a friend who doesn’t understand the need for a “new birth.”\*

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/ncfca-apologetics/download-category/ncfca-apologetics>.

Cancer

How can a loving God let my mom die of cancer?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Salvation *by Christopher Larson*

Respond to the person who says, "I'm not sure I'm saved because I never had a dramatic conversion experience."

Bible Verses

[Romans 3:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A21&version=NIV)

[Romans 3:10-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A10-18&version=NIV)

[Ephesians 2:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A1&version=NIV)

[2 Samuel 6:5-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+6%3A5-6&version=NIV)

[Isaiah 6:1-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+6%3A1-7&version=NIV)

[Matthew 19:16-22](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+19%3A16-22&version=NIV)

[Mark 4:35-41](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+4%3A35-41&version=NIV)

Quotations

“Not only was Uzzah forbidden to touch the ark, he was forbidden to even look at it. He touched it anyway. He stretched out his hand and placed it squarely on the ark, steadying it in place lest it fall to the ground. An act of holy heroism? No! It was an act of arrogance, a sin of presumption. Uzzah assumed that his hand was less polluted than the earth. But it wasn’t the ground or the mud that would desecrate the ark; it was the touch of man…the ground doesn’t commit cosmic treason. There is nothing polluted about the ground.”–R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

“Yea, on the contrary, justice calls aloud for an infinite punishment of [man’s] sins. Divine justice says of the tree that brings forth such grapes of Sodom, “Cut it down, why cumbreth is to the ground,” Luke 13:7. The sword of divine justice is every moment brandished over their heads, and ‘tis nothing but the hand of arbitrary mercy, and God’s mere will, that holds it back.”–Jonathan Edwards, *Sinners in the Hands of a Holy God*

“Non-Christians can do many things which are in themselves good. There is no merit for them in this, however; they only do such things because they are restrained from evil by God’s common grace, and even the good they do is done for selfish motives, and not for the glory of God.”–Douglas Wilson, *Easy Chairs, Hard Words*

“An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion.”–Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

Recommendations

*The Holiness of God,* by R.C. Sproul, Chapter 6

*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by Jonathan Edwards

*Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_mK65lpveSM>)

Commentary

This prompt was originally worded as “Why does man need salvation?”

On the interstate close to my house, a church has put up a billboard that declares one simple thing: “God is not angry.” While I can appreciate some of the motives in putting up the sign, I believe that statement has unintentional ramifications that could be deeply problematic for our doctrine of salvation. To put it simply, if God is not angry, then no one needs salvation.

If you look at the Bible verses above, you may be wondering why I included them. Sure, verses in Romans 3 and Ephesians 2 are obviously relevant–they talk about the sinfulness of man. But what about Isaiah 6? What about Matthew 19, the case of the rich young ruler? What do those have to do with the topic?

In a word, everything. It is simply not enough to say that people are sinful, and so they need salvation. When talking to an unbeliever–and perhaps even a believer–we have to ask *why* sin is such a problem. Some of those verses help us find the answer.

Isaiah 6 tells a familiar story. Isaiah enters the temple and has a vision. He sees God on his throne, high and exalted. Angels fly back and forth shouting, “Holy, Holy, Holy.” Immediately, Isaiah falls on his face and curses himself. Think about that for a second–Isaiah curses himself just because he is in the presence of God. Why would he do that? The answer is found in what Isaiah says: “I am a man of unclean lips.” Isaiah knows he is a sinner, and the angel’s declaration of the holiness of God makes Isaiah realize the trouble he is in. He is a radically corrupted individual who is in the presence of a righteous, pure, and holy God. Without Isaiah’s sin being atoned for, God is angry. That’s what happens in 2nd Samuel 6, when God kills Uzzah. Uzzah failed to have a proper respect for God­–he thought he was good enough to stand in the presence of the Holy One. Notice the similarities between these two examples. God isn’t angry because He feels like it. He’s angry because He is Holy. God didn’t kill Uzzah on a whim, He killed Uzzah because Uzzah dared think himself worthy to stand in His presence. Isaiah doesn’t grovel in fear of a random, unpredictable God. He grovels in fear of a righteous God. God is no temperamental child, stomping around heaven and lashing out when he doesn’t get his way. God is perfection. He is justice. He is holiness.

Thus, one of the reasons man needs salvation is because God is angry. But in Romans 3, Paul points out something more. From verses 10-18 Paul compiles Old Testament verse after Old Testament verse reinforcing the sinfulness of man. If we look carefully at these verses, we’ll notice something interesting. Every few verses, Paul deals with one aspect of humanity. In Verses 11-12, he talks about the desires of man, and how the desires of man have been corrupted. But from there, he moves to the tongue and then to human relationships. Paul takes down each one, showing how unbelief leads to the destruction of our relationships, of peace, and of happiness. “In their paths are ruin and misery,” “their feet are swift to shed blood,” “the way of peace they have not known.” We need salvation not only because our sin makes God angry, but also because our sin ruins everything and everyone around us. As Timothy Keller pointed out in the quotation above, it even ruins us. It turns us into slaves, our every desire under the control of our sin.

Man needs salvation because there is no hope without it. There is no peace, no safety, no happiness, and no eternal life. But God has provided a way. Sin wears us out, but God has provided a fountain for those who are weary and heavy-laden. We sin as we wander away from the path of righteousness into the snares and traps of Satan. But God has provided a light to show us the way back.

God is angry, but He isn’t angry at everyone. For those who trust in Jesus as their only hope for happiness, for peace, for safety, for hope, and for eternal life God is anything but angry. God loves those who trust Christ–in fact, He loves them just as he loves His Son.

Scripture and Science

Hasn't science disproven Christianity?

Bible Verses

[Job 35:11; 12:7-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job+35%3A11%3B+12%3A7-9&version=NIV)

[Ecclesiastes 1:13-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ecclesiastes+1%3A13-17&version=NIV)

[Romans 1:20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+1%3A20&version=NIV)

[Colossians 1:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1%3A17&version=NIV)

Quotations

“Richard Dawkins regards faith as an evil to be eliminated; he takes all religious faith to be blind faith. (Dawkins says) ‘Scientific belief is based on publicly checkable evidence, religious faith not only lacks evidence, its independence from evidence is its joy, shouted from the rooftops.’ However, taking Dawkins own advice we ask: where is the evidence that religious faith is not based on evidence? Mainstream Christianity will insist that faith and evidence are inseparable. Indeed, faith is a response to evidence, not a rejoicing in the absence of evidence. The apostle Paul says what many pioneers of modern science believed, that nature itself is part of the evidence for the existence of God, ‘Since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made. So that men are without an excuse.’ Dawkins’ definition of faith turns out to be the direct opposite of the biblical one. Curious that he does not seem to be aware of the discrepancy.” -John Lennox

“If you’re sincerely seeking God, God will make His existence evident to you.” - William Lane Craig

“God is not an alternative to science as an explanation, he is not to be understood merely as a God of the gaps, he is the ground of all explanation: it is his existence which gives rise to the very possibility of explanation, scientific or otherwise. It is important to stress this because influential authors such as Richard Dawkins will insist on conceiving of God as an explanatory alternative to science—an idea that is nowhere to be found in theological reflection of any depth. Dawkins is therefore tilting at a windmill—dismissing a concept of God that no serious thinker believes in anyway. Such activity is not necessarily to be regarded as a mark of intellectual sophistication.” -John Lennox

“We must not build on the sands of an uncertain and ever-changing science…but upon the rock of inspired Scriptures.” -Sir Ambrose Flemming

Recommendations

“Science in the Bible: Does the Bible Contradict Popular Principles” by Rich Deems

(<http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/sciencebible.html)>

*Darwin on Trial* by Philip E. Johnson

*Skeptics Answered* by Dr. James Kennedy

*God’s Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* by John Lennox

Commentary

This prompt was originally published as a question to answer: “Are Scripture and science in conflict?”

It goes without saying: The Bible is quick to get a bad rap from the scientific community. Often, the belief in a God and the belief in science are juxtaposed as alternate methods of understanding the world around us. Predictably, it becomes a game of mudslinging—where science is praised as the worldview that embraces knowledge and learning, while religion is downplayed as the essence of blind faith and ignorance. And one of the best ways to answer that proposed conflict is to reexamine what the respective functions of Christianity and science are.

Christianity posits the agent behind the universe. Science offers the mechanism by which it functions (i.e. it can tell us how fast the earth spins, but never who spun it). Choosing one of these as alternatives is like seeing a Model T and being offered two methods of explanation: The Laws of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering, or Henry Ford. No one would reason this way! The existence of a scientific process never precludes the agent behind it. When Newton discovered the Law of Gravity, he didn’t say, “Marvelous, now I don’t need a God.” He recognized that the existence of a scientific law instead demanded the existence of a Lawgiver. Rather than observing the two as conflicting worldviews, he understood them as complementary, which is precisely the way God intended them to be viewed.

Hypocrisy *by Zack Seals*

Why do so many Christians live lives that look no different than non-believers?

*NOTE: This commentary was published in an earlier release.*

Bible Verses

[Luke 6:46-49](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6%3A46-49+&version=NIV) (Hypocrisy was one of Jesus’s most common condemnations of the Pharisees)

[James 1:22-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A22-27+&version=NIV) (We are called to be *doers* of the Word!)

[Romans 2:21-24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2%3A21-24+&version=NIV) (Bad Christian testimony *blasphemes God’s name* before an unbelieving world)

[2 Corinthians 13:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+13%3A5&version=NIV) (Christians cannot live unexamined lives)

[2 Peter 1:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A10+&version=NIV) (Examine yourself as a Christian)

[Galatians 5:16-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A16-25+&version=NIV) (Christians are in a battle against their flesh!)  
[1 John 3:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3%3A9+&version=NIV) (Christian’s will not make a *habit* of sinning)

More Scriptures: [Matthew 6:1-18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6%3A1-18&version=NIV); [7:1-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A1-8&version=NIV); [15:1-20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+15%3A1-20&version=NIV); [23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+23&version=NIV); [Mark 7:1-23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+7%3A1-23&version=NIV); [12:38-39](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+12%3A38-39&version=NIV); [Luke 20:45-47](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+20%3A45-47&version=NIV); [12:1-3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A1-3&version=NIV); [18:9-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+18%3A9-14&version=NIV)

Quotations

“It is a sad thing to be Christians at a supper, heathens in our shops, and devils in our closets.” – Stephen Charnock, Puritan

“Religion which is begun in hypocrisy will certainly end in apostasy.” – William Spurstowe, Puritan

“It is a terribly easy matter to be a minister of the gospel and a vile hypocrite at the same time.” – C. H. Spurgeon, 19th century preacher (Consider the requirements of an apologist to be a “minister of the gospel”)

“I’ll believe in the Redeemer when the Christians look a little more redeemed.” – Frederick Nietzsche, German Philosopher

“It is no disgrace to Christianity, it is no disgrace to any great religion, that its counsels of perfection have not made every single person perfect. If after centuries a disparity is still found between its ideal and its followers, it only means that the religion still maintains the ideal, and the followers still need it.” - G.K. Chesterton, *Buddhism and Christianity*

Commentary

NOTE: This prompt was originally published as an analytical response: “Analyze and respond to the statement, ‘I am not sure I want to be a Christian, as Christians are hypocritical, intolerant and judgmental.’”

This statement is not only a straightforward one, but could accurately be called the number one existential argument against Christianity. That is to say while many may claim there are logical problems or philosophical difficulties with Christianity this statement gets more to the heart of the matter. Christians aren’t living what they’re teaching. There are two recommendations on what to needs to be addressed in this speech.

First, it’s important to briefly point out, whether in your first point or sometime in your introduction, that hypocrisy alone is *not* a reason to reject a system. It can be coupled with a number of other arguments to make a cumulative case more persuasive, and is often done so for the emotional draw, but if made on its own (as in the above statement) it’s not a reason *per se* to reject an argument. If an *argument* is made based off of hypocrisy alone it turns into what is logically called a *“tu quoque* (which the Latin phrase for appeal to hypocrisy) and is fallacious. For example, you may hear an argument from a certain person that it is bad for your health to smoke. After considering what they said you later find out that the very same person who informed you of this also smokes. Do you now have a reason to reject his argument and keep on smoking? Of course not! His hypocrisy does nothing to affect the rationality of his argument that smoking is bad it simply makes it less persuasive. Therefore, it can be said that on a strictly *logical* basis this can’t be said to be a reason to reject Christianity and that should be pointed out as briefly as possible.

The reason the above, although important, should be addressed as quickly as possible because most people aren’t intending to use it as a logical argument. Once it’s shown that it can’t be a logical argument, you can address the real difficulty–why it is such problematic existential argument. It goes like this: if Christians don’t practice what they preach, then why should anyone conform their own lives to Christianity’s standards? Christians spend a lot of time saying it has a more “moral” standard that is “better” then the world’s, but then they go and act just like everyone else. If they aren’t going to live according to their own standard, then why should anyone else?

You must begin with recognizing the problem. Being honest enough to admit not only that Christians sin as well but that you as a person make mistakes daily is the first step in not only establishing credibility but demonstrating that you really care about the issue and don’t want to give canned answers to difficult questions. Start with sharing some of the verses that were provided above on how this problem of “Christian hypocrites” isn’t a new one but goes all the way back to the first century. Both Jesus and Paul address the issue by calling it out and commanding believers to cease their worldly attitudes.

Additionally, it needs to be pointed out that while Christians and the rest of the world are similar in that they both *sin* the differences is that they both view that sin differently! The world rejoices in its sin and encourages others to do so. An appropriate Christian response is one of guilt which leads to repentance and an acceptance of the incredible forgiveness that is found in Christ. Yes, Christian’s sin, but one who is truly following after God’s call to be like Christ will do everything possible to not have a life *characterized* by sin. A Christian, though they make mistakes just like everyone else, is called to *habitually* change that lifestyle. The letter of 1 John discusses this topic heavily. In fact, the Bible even describes these decisions as a constant battle between our flesh and our spirit which is one we fight daily. Galatians 5:16-25 makes this clear.

Finally, after showing that you honestly recognize the problem and will handle it differently, explain how you plan to make a change. No assessment of a difficulty is complete without providing the solution and that is only found in Christ. Isaiah 1:16-17 says,“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.” How is this possible? What could possibly be strong enough to give us the ability to change our habits and ways of life and turn towards a truly holy way of living? Christ and His resurrection. What better way to finish a speech but by explaining the way to overcome our hypocrisy and turn back to what we are truly called to be?

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:57)

Denominations

Respond to the question "If the Bible has all the answers, why are there so many denominations?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Miracles

Do miracles like the ones in the Bible still happen today?

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Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Evil in the World *by Christopher Larson*

If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?

Bible Verses

Genesis 3:1-19

Romans 3:21

Romans 1:18

Ephesians 2:1

John 17:6-8

Psalm 34:8

Job 1:1, 21-22

Job 9:1-12

Quotations

“Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once, and He volunteered.”–R.C. Sproul Jr.

“What is Jesus saying here? I think that what He is saying is that these people were asking the wrong question. The question they should have asked is not ‘Why did God allow these innocent people to die by having a tower fall on their heads?’ Rather, the question they should have asked is: “Jesus, why didn’t that tower fall on me?” We are puzzled and bewildered whenever we see suffering in this world because we have become accustomed to the mercy and the long-suffering of God. Amazing grace is no longer amazing to us. So our astonishment is in the wrong place. The real question is: Why has God not destroyed us all since we got out of our beds this morning? Why does He tolerate us as we continue our work of sin and destruction upon His planet?”–R.C. Sproul, *Reason to Believe*

“This notion that grace is healing omits the fact that before it heals, it cuts with the sword Christ said He came to bring.”–Flannery O’Connor, *The Habit of Being*

“The most violent expression of God’s wrath and justice is seen in the Cross. If ever a person had room to complain for injustice, it was Jesus. He was the only innocent man ever to be punished by God. If we stagger at the wrath of God, let us stagger at the Cross. Here is where our astonishment should be focused.”–R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

Commentary

This prompt was originally posed as a question, “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

This is a classic question raised by Christians and unbelievers alike. It hits home because it’s a question we all have to face. I’d be willing to wager that most of us have seen a loved one, someone we respected, or someone we thought was a good person go through enormous trials. Why would God allow that? What did that person ever do to deserve it?

Luke 13 is one of the places the Bible asks this question. Jesus’s answer shocking. We’re told of 18 people going about their day-to-day activities when a tower suddenly fell on them. Why did this happen? What justice is there in this? These people who were probably considered good were suddenly killed. But Jesus doesn’t explain why it happened. Instead, he simply says, “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” The Bible tells us that we are all due pain and suffering. But that doesn’t make sense–there are people who do good things, and are good people, right? Why do bad things happen to them? Notice that there are two major terms in this question: bad things, and good people. Let’s examine those terms in order, first asking, “why bad things?”

To answer that we need to go to Genesis 3. This is the account of the Fall of Adam and Eve, but to understand the significance of this we need to back up even further. God has created Adam and Eve in total perfection. He has made them at peace with themselves, with each other, and with God. They live in a literal paradise–the Garden of Eden. And not only do they live there, but God has told them to make the entire world like the Garden. They were to live in a world that was a paradise. They were allowed to do anything they wanted with only one exception. Don’t eat of a certain tree. Yet, the second God turns his back, these creatures—who are utterly dependent on their creator for everything—break the law of God. We are subsequently told in Romans 5:12 that, “through one man sin entered the world and through sin death.” Because Adam and Eve sinned, bad things entered the world.

But not only did bad things enter the world around them, their desires were corrupted. Their interpersonal relationships were ruined because of the evil they both had in them. Their relationship to God was ruined because of their desire to sin. It didn’t take long for this to manifest itself. Just a few verses later Adam and Eve have two sons, and one of them kills the other just because the other one had offered sacrifices properly. Bad things entered the world because Adam and Eve did a bad thing. As a result, they themselves were corrupted.

That’s why there are bad things. Next, we have to figure out why they happen to good people. But wait, we just realized that bad things happen because people are bad. There are no good people–if there were, there would be no bad things to happen to them. The question answers itself. If we understand why there are bad things in the world, we understand why they happen to people. People themselves are bad, and as a result of human action in the Garden, evil events occur. “Sure,” you might say. “Of course people cause bad things sometimes, but what about a natural disaster? What about something that isn’t the result of human action? Why do those things happen?” We know that if the victims of things like natural disasters are Christians, it is ultimately for their good (Romans 8:17). But notice what the question is now. Because there are no good people, according to the Bible, the question is no longer, “why do bad things happen to good people,” but, “why do bad things happen to bad people?”

Because there are no good people, according to the Bible, the question is no longer, “why do bad things happen to good people,” but, “why do bad things happen to bad people?” The hard reality is that bad things happen to bad people because that’s what we deserve. We live in a broken world because of our sin. That’s the bad news. Though things may not make sense, God is working. He is so good, powerful and grand that He even uses suffering for glory (John 9, especially verses 1-3). This leads us directly, though, to the good news. God has provided a way for us to get what we don’t deserve. We can receive grace when we deserve judgment. We can have eternal life when we deserve eternal death. We can have heaven when we deserve hell. We can be loved when we should be hated.

Hell *by Luis Garcia*

Why would a loving God send people to hell?

Bible Verses

[Deuteronomy 32:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+32%3A4&version=NIV)  
[Psalm 5; 7:11; 33:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+5%3B+7%3A11%3B+33%3A5&version=NIV)  
[Isaiah 14:12-15; 53](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+14%3A12-15%3B+53&version=NIV)  
[Matthew 7:13-14; 25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A13-14%3B+25&version=NIV)  
[John 3:14-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A14-21&version=NIV)  
[Galatians 6:7-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+6%3A7-8&version=NIV)  
[Colossians 2:13-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+2%3A13-14&version=NIV)  
[2 Peter 3:1-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A1-9&version=NIV)  
[Revelation 20:11-15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20%3A11-15&version=NIV)

Quotations

“The essence of hell is relational…In the Bible, hell is separation or banishment from the most beautiful being in the world – God Himself. It is exclusion from all that matters, from all value, not only from God but also from those who have come to know and love Him…Hell is the final sentence that says you refused regularly to live for the purpose for which you were made, and the only alternative is to sentence you away from eternity. So it is punishment. But it’s also the natural consequence of a life that has been lived in a certain way.” –J. P. Moreland being interviewed by Lee Strobel in his book *The Case for Faith*

“I feel that if God should smite me now, without hope or offer of mercy, to the lowest hell, I should only have what I justly deserve; and I feel that if I be not punished for my sins, or if there be not some plan found by which my sin can be punished in another, I cannot understand how God can be just at all: how shall he be Judge of all the earth, if he suffer offenses to go unpunished?” **–**C.H. Spurgeon (*Expiation*, Sermon 561, Isa. 53:10)

Recommendations

*Erasing Hell* by Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle

*The Case for Faith* by Lee Strobel, Chapter 6

*The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis, Chapter 9 (especially pg. 340)

<http://gracequotes.org/topic/hell-justified/>

http://carm.org/apologetics/evidence-and-answers/loving-god-would-never-send-anyone-hell

Commentary

The answer to this question dwells on the balance between God’s love and justice, as well as human nature and destiny. Hell is the destiny of the rebellious and wicked. They are sent there by God and they sent themselves there. The books and articles above do an excellent job discussing this issue, and you will find they don’t agree necessarily. I provided that contrast intentionally, as I know it will provoke great meditation and time before the Lord and His Word. Ultimately, lead the topic to show a great flaw in the question. The question makes it seem that this “loving God” makes the destiny of Hell to be the only option. Truly, as Francis Chan stated in a sermon, the crucifixion of Jesus was Him bearing Hell for us to give us a second chance to experience His love, grace and mercy. He is the other option. Broad is the way that leads to destruction. Narrow is the way to righteousness. Responsibility is on the shoulders of men, but God has brought His mercy for all nations.

Truth *by Luis Garcia*

Respond to the person who asks, "Isn't it arrogant to claim to know the truth?"

## Bible Verses

John 14

## Quotations

“I’d rather have the truth than something insincere.” –Matthew Thiessen

“Sometimes truth is so painful we would rather run than embrace it.” –Andy Stanley

“Many people...do not want absolutes in doctrine and ethics, simply because absolute truths and standards demand absolute acceptance and obedience.” –John MacArthur

“The truth is incontrovertible, malice may attack it, ignorance may deride it, but in the end; there it is.” – Winston Churchill

“When we offend everybody, it’s because we’ve taken on the truth mantle without grace. When we offend nobody, it’s because we’ve watered down truth in the name of grace…The world’s low standards, its disregard for truth, are not grace. The illusory freedom, however, feels like grace to someone who’s been pounded with graceless truth.” –Randy Alcorn

“Truth by definition is exclusive. If truth were all-inclusive, nothing would be false. And if nothing were false, what would be the meaning of true? Furthermore, if nothing were false, would it be true to say that everything is false?” –Ravi Zacharias

“It gives you real respect for the truth when you have to help clean up lives that have been based on a lie.” –Frank Peretti, This Present Darkness

“We have reversed Jesus’ order. We have made truth relative and culture supreme and have been left in a world in which wickedness reigns.” –Ravi Zacharias

## Commentary

My first thought when reading this statement was to ask, “Is that a true statement?” Ignoring the obvious contradiction of this quotation lets us into the heart of the speaker. Even if there is something illogical about the way an argument is placed, when someone accuses us of being arrogant, we ought to pause. Arrogance is a severe problem, because Jesus said that those who are to be the greatest must be humble, the servants of the others. For this reason, take this quotation with the realization that perhaps it is not arrogant to claim to know the truth, but that those who claim to know the truth are often arrogant.

New Birth

Respond to a friend who doesn’t understand the need for a “new birth.”

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary