

God does NOT want people to go to Hell.

I. Hell is a place of eternal punishment for the devil and his demons.

“Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.”

Matthew 25:41 (NLT)

“Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

II. Hell is a place of eternal punishment for those who do not know God and reject the Good News.

“...when the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NLT)

a. We are all born sinners deserving of God's wrath and without excuse.

“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.” Romans 5:12 (NLT)

“No one is righteous— not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one... everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.” Romans 3:10-12, 23 (NLT)

“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

b. To reject the Good News of Jesus is to reject God's only plan for rescuing us.

“God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.” John 3:17-20 (NLT)

III. Hell is place of eternal separation from God and endless anguish.

Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and his soul went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.’ “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ “But Abraham said, ‘If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even if someone rises from the dead.’” Luke 16:19-31 (NLT)

“...at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 13:49-50 (NLT)

“...if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.’”

Mark 9:47-48 (NLT)

Note: After we die our eternal destiny is set. It will be too late then to repent or warn others.

“...each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment...” Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)

IV. God does **NOT** want people to go to hell.

“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.” Ezekiel 33:11 (NLT)

“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.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

- a. Good News! God sent Jesus to save the whole world.

“God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NLT)

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”

Romans 5:8-9 (NIV)

- b. Jesus is sending us to proclaim the Good News to the whole world.

“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” John 20:21 (NLT)

“God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, ‘Come back to God!’ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 (NLT)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions

1. When did you first learn about Heaven and Hell? What was your response?
2. Why do you think many Christians feel uncomfortable talking about Hell?
3. Jesus mentioned Hell many times throughout Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John. Read Luke 16:19-31. Why do you think Jesus wanted people to know about Hell?
4. On the way home from the funeral of a common friend one of your co-workers seems shaken and very upset. "I'm not ready to die" she says, "I'm scared! I'm really scared!" How do you respond? What do you say to them?
5. Read Romans 10:1-4, this is Paul's statement and prayer for those who were religious but did not believe in Jesus. Who do you know that is trying to earn their righteousness before God? What are all the things a person must give or change before believing in Jesus as Savior? (*now read John 10:5-13*)
6. Read John 5:24 and 1 John 5:11-13. How can we be sure we are going to Heaven after we die?
7. Read Titus 3:4-7. Based on this passage, what are the things that take place in a person's life when they believe in Jesus?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. Because of Christ's love we are able to share the wonderful Good News with others. Spend some time, as a group of Christ's Ambassadors, praying by name for one person each of you knows who is far from Christ.

Discuss the following quotations:

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for." - C. H. Spurgeon

"God made human beings in His image, as the crowning achievement of His creation, so that we could live in love and fellowship with Him and each other. Tempted by Satan, humans rebelled against God and became estranged from Him, radically and pervasively depraved, subject to divine wrath, and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition. People exist forever and will be resurrected in the body, either to live eternally separated from God in Hell, or eternally in union with God in Heaven."

- Centerpoint Fellowship Church Statement of Beliefs

"Jesus spoke about Hell's reality not out of hate or anger, but out of love. Yes, hell is real, but God doesn't want you to go there! This is why He provided a way for us to be with Him in Heaven forever, by sending His Son into the world to die for our sins." - Billy Graham

"If an unbeliever doesn't believe in Hell, he is likely to reject Christ without any fear of God. If a believer doesn't believe in Hell, he won't be motivated to share Christ." - Craig Groeschel