

Who Would You Send to Hell?

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In Mark 9:43-48 Jesus described the terror of Hell. It is worth our time to dwell on, as a fear of hell is a proper motivation to avoid sin. During the middle Ages the poet Dante wrote the Divine Comedy. In the Inferno section, he described a walkthrough hell. He described seeing Popes, cardinals & politicians in torment as well as historic characters. But he also populated hell with many of his personal enemies. If you were describing hell, who would you put there?

If you thought about it, you might find yourself reluctant to put ANYONE in hell. But we may not realize that when Jesus was describing hell, he was teaching about who we might send there. In Matthew 18:1-11 Jesus made it clear that we may be causing other people to sin and to be lost by our actions. Let us consider some of the people we may be sending to hell.

People We Are Sending To Hell: those to whom we do not speak the truth - Ezekiel 33:1-9

When someone is in sin, the consequences of that sin is eternal (Romans 6:23). But we are often hesitant to tell them they are in sin. We may want to “spare their feelings”. Or perhaps they are not worth speaking to about their condition. However, when we refuse to offer correction, we are the watchman who refuses to warn others of their dangers.

People We Are Sending To Hell: those to whom we present stumbling blocks - Matthew 16:21-23

Jesus warned us about being stumbling blocks. He even accused Peter of being one to Him. We are stumbling blocks (on the path of righteousness) when we offer discouraging words or deeds that cause people to lose the desire to do what is right. We are also guilty of enabling or encouraging sin in others and thereby causing them to be lost.

People We Are Sending To Hell: those around whom we are not Christ-like - Matthew 5:13-16

Sometimes we don't want to be different from others, although Jesus told us to let our light shine before men. If we are engaging in worldly activities undiscerning (or even just giving that appearance, 1 Corinthians 8:10. We may be causing others to misunderstand Christ if we do not make it clear where we stand in spiritual matters.

People We Are Sending To Hell: we may be sending ourselves to hell - Hebrews 2:1-4

Ultimately, every person is responsible for their own salvation. God repeatedly said that the soul who sins will die. So we are most involved in our own salvation. The Hebrew writer warned us about neglecting our salvation. We need to be mindful that we may be sending ourselves to Hell if we are returning to the world.

What if we realize we are sending others to hell, or we have already done so? It seems like Paul may have experienced this in 1 Timothy 1:13-16, reflecting on his mistakes before Christ. But while it is possible that it could be too late to keep some safe, there are always some people for whom it is NEVER TOO LATE to change.

Finally, we need to know that God desires that NONE should go to hell (II Peter 3:19). In fact, He has done EVERYTHING POSSIBLE to save us. He has sent His son to totally atone for our sin, and He has completely explained what we must do to receive it. But we need to understand that it is IMPOSSIBLE for Him to accept you in sin; you must leave sin to come to Him.