

Why Would A Good God Create Hell

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Good and evil tend to be defined two ways. First, people define it by their own feelings. This is the most common definition, but is also the most easily identified as flawed. The second way is to point to a concrete external. What is a common to all source? Nature does not work because it creates a flawed source of right and wrong. Thus we are left with God, a greater power and mind

God is good. “No one is good but One, that is, God” (Luke 18:19). God IS good because His purposes are good – Genesis 1:4-31 – and His rules are good – Deuteronomy 6:24. Knowing this, how do we reconcile that God is good (He loves us, He wants us to be with Him) and Hell is terrible, and God (will) cast men there; how are both of these things true?

To answer this we need to clarify the nature of hell and why it exists. Hells is described as eternal torment (Matthew 25:46), flame / lake of fire (Luke 16:24), darkness (Jude 6), and a place not yet populated – Jude 16. Hell is being “cast out” from God’s presence in Mark 9, Matthew 25, etc.. It is the absence of God’s goodness.

Why must hell exist? This is because of the nature of God. God cannot permit sin in His presence (Psalm 68:2, Isaiah 6:5, Hab. 1:13). As well, God’s nature is also just and true (Psalm 89:14, 99:4). Finally, the nature of man as an eternal being (Ecclesiastes 3:11, Genesis 1:26) establishes that God, not being able to tolerate sin, and man, committing sin and being an eternal being, must exist in a condition apart from the goodness of God. Hell is an inevitable necessity. Hell exists not because God created a place to torment His enemies, but because those who would not go with God must remain apart from all of His goodness.

But let us go back to the idea that God is good. God cannot tolerate this situation. How could He change it? Perhaps not create us (but God desires “Godly offspring” that would love Him with all our might). So could He not permit us free will? If He did, then we would not be able to love Him. The answer was this: a plan of salvation we must choose.

God Himself would pay the cost of this plan. It is “Purchased with His own blood” Acts 20:28, and He is the “Author and finisher” Hebrews 12:2. God Himself would reveal it to us, since “they shall all be taught by God” John 6:45 and “the word...is living and active” Hebrews 4:12. Finally, God makes sure everyone gets a chance, since He “desires all men to be saved” 1 Timothy 2:4. God has done all He can to save us; He has paid the cost of our sins; He has revealed to all salvation; He has made sure everyone is included; finally, His plan is easy.

A Good God does not “send” us to Hell. Hell is an inevitability that exists because of the nature of God, the nature of man, and the nature of sin. God is good, and He does all He can to change our likelihood of being there. God does not send us there; we make the choice as to whether we end there or not. He cannot be faulted for our choices