

GOD'S LOVE AND HELL

HOW GOD'S LOVE IS MANIFESTED IN THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

*"God is love...
There is no fear in love;
but perfect love casteth out fear..."*

~ 1 John 4:16,18

1. Introduction

- a. Hell is a shame. Popular universalism says it would be a shame on God.
- b. Judgment in hell is denied by universalists based on God's love.
 - i. *'How could a loving God send anyone to hell?'*
- c. Is God's love incompatible with hell? Does a loving God and hell conflict?
- d. What if hell was not despite the love of God, but because of it.
- e. This lesson, how God's love manifested in the doctrine of hell.

2. What is Love

- a. We cannot leave love undefined or unmoored from the Biblical definition.
- b. *"A loving God would not ____"* followed by anything God does in the Bible is idolatry.
- c. 'God is love' is not the same as Love as God (homosexuality, humanism, etc.)
- d. God is love and he is in hell, too - Jer 23:24, Psalm 139:8
- e. Love fulfills the law, benefit to others with the truth - Rom 13:10, 1 Cor 13:4-7
- f. The love of God found in sending his Son to save - John 3:16, 1 John 4:7-12
- g. Fear is cast out concerning judgment for those in His love - 1 John 4:16-18

3. A Parent's Love

- a. *'God is a loving Father who would not send his children to torment in hell.'*
 - i. The definition of respecting persons is ignoring justice due to 'my child'
 - ii. God does not send anyone in his image to hell.
 - iii. We are not all God's children - Gal 3:26
 - iv. Before salvation, we are not known of God - Matt 7:23, Gal 4:9
 - v. We are not real children; we are responsible adults.
 - vi. We are not innocent - God did not put Adam and Eve in hell - Gen 3:8
 - vii. What one parent might 'lovingly' overlook, another cannot due to love.
 - viii. We do not fill a love shaped hole in the heart of God.
- b. John speaks most about Father - 1Jn 2:15, 22-23, 3:1, 10, 14-15, 4:7-8, Jn 14:20-24

4. Love Removes Wickedness

- a. Love is manifest in righteous judgment against sin. Rev 20:10, 14-15, 21:3-4
 - i. His love for the truth - 2 Thess 2:10
 - ii. His love for righteousness (if hell is just, it is loving) - Ps 33:5, 45:7

- iii. His love for the innocent, justified, victim - Ps 11:5
 - iv. It would be unloving for God not to be angry/wrathful about sin.
 - b. Love separates sin (in hell) to protect the righteous (in heaven and earth)
 - i. God created hell fire for the devil and his angels - Matt 25:41
 - ii. God shows love for his creation by judging the wicked.
 - iii. God's love seen in protecting the church from sin's corruption - Matt 16:18
 - iv. Sin, tragedy, hell are a result of God giving love to the unlovable - 2 Pet 3:9

5. Love Respects Choice

- a. Love can only be given by free choice - 1 Cor 13:5
- b. Choice necessitates judgment of sin: God solves sin, but men can reject salvation.
- c. It is unloving to force yourself onto someone who rejects your love.
- d. Men love darkness and evil - God gives it to them - John 3:28-29, Psalm 52:3
- e. Hell is being in the unveiled presence of God's love/glory while loving darkness
- f. It is not God's love that is incompatible with hell, it is men's love of self which is.

6. Love Rejected as Fire

- a. Love is strong as fire and death - Song 8:6
- b. Hell is God's love manifest to those that reject him.
- c. God's love is so great and pure that those who deny its work receive hell.
- d. Hell a result of man's position toward God, not his toward them (e.g. airplane seat)
- e. Hell not an absence of God's love, but an absence of man's love for God - 2Th 2:10

7. Love Toward Sinners Today

- a. No loving person wants others to go to hell, God sent the gospel to save men.
- b. God is commending his love toward sinners to save them from hell - Romans 5:8
- c. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (in Christ) - Romans 8:35-39
- d. God's love confronts sin by telling the truth - not denying the consequences.
- e. God's love does not pretend the enemies of Christ are harmless - Phi 3:18-19
- f. Final judgment has not yet happened for all alive today.