

## Everyone Will Go to Heaven

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34b (NIV)*

*But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Luke 23:40-41 (NIV)*

*Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23:42-43 (NIV)*

It breaks God's heart when people categorically and continually and resolutely refuse God's love and reject God. But God has given to all of us the freedom to choose. It is the result of God's love. Love is never compelled. It must always be freely embraced. And the reality is there are people who choose the way of continual evil and give themselves over to it unremittingly. They choose to be separated from God forever.

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16-17 (ESV)*

Talk About It . . .

1. What are a couple of things you feel guilty about when you do them? What do you think of that?
2. Do you believe people are responsible for their actions and attitudes? Why or why not?
3. What do you normally do when you find yourself feeling guilty before God? What do you think of that?
4. How do you believe God responds when you engage in wrong actions or have wrong attitudes?
5. What do you think of confessing your sins and selfishness to God? What could possibly be the purpose of doing that?
6. What do you believe about God's forgiveness?
7. What are your thoughts about your death?
8. What do you believe about the afterlife? How did you come to believe that?
9. How have your beliefs about the afterlife changed over time? What do you think of that?

10. Do you believe or do you not believe everyone will go to heaven? How did you come to believe that?

11. What do you think of the idea that God desires, in love, for all to believe in him, that none should perish, and all should have eternal life in heaven?

12. How do you think people reconcile in their minds that God is perfect love and that there could be people who would be eternally separated from God's love?

13. How are God's love and God's justice related?

14. What do you think of the idea that there are people who choose the way of continual evil and give themselves over to it unremittingly, thereby choosing for themselves to be separated from God forever, and that is hell?