

You Are Important

Friend, did you know that you are important to God? There are those people who think too little of themselves. This is seen in how many treat themselves poorly with suicide, self-mutilation, depression, drugs and alcohol, etc. This is also seen in how many treat others in rape, robbery, murder, abortion, euthanasia, bullying, etc.

On the other hand, there are those people who think too highly of themselves. This is seen in how many people refuse to acknowledge God. This is also seen in how many people exalt their own human wisdom.

Friend, you are important to God. Consider how you are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Consider that you are made to glorify God (Isa. 43:7; 1 Cor. 11:7; Eph. 3:21). Consider that you are worth more value than all of creation (Psa. 8:3-6; Mt. 6:25-33; 10:29-31). Consider how you are cared for with every good and perfect gift that comes from God (Gen. 2:18-24; Mt. 5:44; 6:11; Acts 14:17; Eph. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Jas. 1:17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 14:13; 20:12). Consider the high price of Jesus' blood that was paid to save you from sin (Acts 20:28; Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). Consider that all people, including you, are invited to come to God because he is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34-35).

Friend, knowing that you are important to God, say to yourself, "I am not going to hurt myself," "I am not going to hurt others," "I am going to get up and come to God," and "I am going to live faithfully each day as a Christian." - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- If you are too busy for God, you are busier than God wants you to be.
- When we stop listening to God's law, God stops listening to our prayers.
- Control your youth, so you can enjoy your old age.
- It will cost you more to say "No" to God than to say "Yes" to God.
- Some people use religion like a bus. They ride on it only when it is going their way.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why Hell?

If God is all-loving and all-good, why must there be a hell? Why do bad people have to go to hell? Why would an all-loving God send anyone to hell? These are the questions that many people today ask about the existence of God and the existence of hell. Some people do not believe in the existence of God because of the doctrine of hell.

The Bible doctrine of hell is one of the most repugnant and rejected teachings of all today. Many people ask, "How can there be a hell if God is all-loving?" "An all-loving God would never send anyone to hell," they claim. "Why does hell have to be so cruel?", they ask. "The punishment does not fit the crime!", they say.

Much of the hell dilemma today is based upon feelings and emotional discomfort with the idea of hell. When we are willing to rationally accept the true nature of hell and the true nature of God, we will understand why hell must exist. Let us consider what the Bible says about the existence of hell and its necessity. Let us see why hell must exist.

Hell Must Exist Because Jesus Said So

Jesus spoke clearly and unmistakably about the existence of hell on a number of occasions (Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28;

13:41-42; 18:9; 23:15,33; 25:30, 41, 46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 12:5). In fact, Jesus had more to say about hell in the New Testament than anyone else. If hell does not exist, then what else was Jesus wrong about?

Hell Must Exist Because the Apostles Said So

Not only did Jesus speak about hell, but Jesus' apostles spoke about it as well. Peter spoke of hell (2 Peter 2:4), James - the Lord's brother, not the apostle - spoke about it (James 3:6), and John spoke about it (Revelation 14:11; 20:10, 15; 21:8). Hell must exist because Jesus and the rest of New Testament scriptures affirm it.

Hell Must Exist Because God Is Love

Love, contrary to popular belief, does not forego punishment (Proverbs 13:24). Love does not overlook wrong (Mark 10:21). Love does not encourage or condone unrighteousness (1 Corinthians 13:6). Love does not forego rebuke (Revelation 3:19). Consequently, a place (hell) must exist for all who are held accountable by God's love (Rev. 21:8). Yes, God's love requires a place of punishment called hell.

Hell Must Exist Because God is Just

God is just, fair, and impartial (Deuteronomy 32:3-4,35; Romans 12:19; He-

brews 10:30-31). God, being just, must reward the good and punish the bad. He must rightly administer what is deserved by all (Acts 17:31; Romans 2:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:10). We want our own nation's judges to administer punishment, but not God the Judge? That doesn't make sense. Consequently, a place (hell) must exist for God's justice to execute his punishment (Romans 11:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

Hell Must Exist Because of the Nature of Punishment

Punishment to be punishment must have a penalty higher in degree than the crime itself. Even atheists, skeptics, and unbelievers agree that punishment can last longer than the crime. It is simply a matter of who gets to decide how long. How long is "too long"? Hell is "eternal" punishment (Matthew 25:46) and hell is "fire" punishment (Mark 9:48). Who is in the best position to determine both the length and the severity of the punishment of mankind, us or God? The Judge of all the earth will do right (Genesis 18:25).

Why Hell Must Exist

Jesus and his apostles said that hell exists. A loving person can punish and still be loving. A just person can punish because justice demands it. Punishment can last longer than the crime. Knowing this, let us live right to avoid the punishment of hell.

- Chris Reeves -