**10 Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask**

*Question 10: Why should I think that heaven really exists—and that God sends people to hell?*

This question tied for first place in the survey (along with the existence of God) for topics Christians felt most uncomfortable or unprepared to discuss. What are some possible reasons for why that is the case?

**Scriptural or Wishful?**

* Heaven has plenty of space and will be filled with many people.
* Only the worst of sinners will end up in hell.
* No one will be married in heaven.
* “Even though grandma died, she’s looking down on us right now and watching over us.”
* Hell was originally created for the devil and his angels.
* Hell is a place of fire and darkness.
* Heaven is filled with clouds, harpists, and fat baby cherubs.
* In heaven there is no beer, that’s why we drink it here.
* Animals won’t be in heaven because they don’t have souls.
* Believers in heaven will be like the angels.
* The devil is the prison warden who rules over hell.
* There will be no babies or old people in heaven.
* After Judgment Day, people will no longer live on earth.
* The worst part about hell is that its occupants will be forever separated from God’s loving presence.
* Heaven will be a paradise free from sin, pain, sadness, and goodbyes.

**Read Luke 16:19-31**

1. Discuss with the people around you some truths these verses teach about the afterlife.
2. Agree or Disagree? This account is a parable and therefore cannot be taken literally.

**Read John 3:16-18**

1. Why would a loving God send people to hell?
2. React to the following quote from C.S. Lewis: “There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘*Thy* will be done.’”

**Read Genesis 9:18-19, Matthew 24:14, Romans 1:20**

1. What about people who never had a chance to hear the gospel, like those native tribes in third world countries? Is God really going to send them to hell when they didn’t even have a chance to hear about Jesus? Respond.
2. What are some reasons people like to try and make God and the afterlife seem unfair or ridiculous?

**Read Matthew 11:20-24, Daniel 12:3, and Luke 19:17-19**

1. What do these passages seem to indicate about hell and heaven? (see also Lk 12:47-49, Mt 19:28, and Mt 20:23) What are some implications of these truths?

**Read John 14:1-6**

1. What are some ways Scripture’s teaching about heaven is a blessing for you right now?

**Apply**

1. Discuss the following scenario with the people around you. What would you say?

You are flying home for Christmas and happen to be sitting next to a talkative fellow. He sees you reading the Bible and says: “You must be a Christian. I’ve got to admit, I’m not really into the whole ‘church thing’, but my wife is always talking about heaven and hell. I don’t worry much about it because I’ve been a pretty good person, but I wouldn’t mind learning a little more about what the Bible says about those places. What can you tell me?”