



"How can you possibly reconcile the concept of judgment and hell with the idea of a loving God?"

*Luke 16:19-31* <sup>19</sup>"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup>At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup>and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

<sup>23</sup>In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

<sup>25</sup>But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

<sup>27</sup>He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**GK Chesterton:** *"Hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice."*  
(Free will)

**JP Morleand:** *"If we fail to live for the purpose for which we are made; to relate lovingly to Him and to others, then God will have absolutely no choice but to give us what we've asked for all along in our lives, which is separation from Him."*  
(Self-will)

## 1. How Hell awakens me.

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things ..." Verse 25

**C.S. Lewis:** *"Again, Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever, and this must be either true or false. Now there are a good many things which would not be worth bothering about if I were going to live only 70 years, but which I had better bother about very seriously if I am going to live forever."*

**C.S. Lewis:** *"The doors of hell are locked from the inside".*

...send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. vs. 24

**C.S. Lewis:** *"In the long run the answer to all those who object to the doctrine of hell, is itself a question: 'What are you asking God to do?' To wipe out their past sins and, at all costs, to give them a fresh start? But he has done so, on Calvary. To forgive them? They will not be forgiven."*

## 2. How Hell promotes peace.

But Abraham replied, 'Son... vs. 25

**Miroslav Volf :** *"If God were not angry at injustice, that God would not be worthy of worship."*

## 3. How Hell confirms God's love

'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,<sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' vs. 27

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'  
vs. 29

### **The Apostles' Creed said Jesus descended into hell.**

On the cross when Jesus Christ lost the eternal love of the Father, He experienced an agony, and an isolation, infinitely greater than any loss you and I would experience in life.

### **He took what we deserve upon himself.**

Ironically by getting rid of the idea of judgment and hell, people try to make God more loving, and they make him less loving.