

Biblical Answers to Difficult Questions: How to Deal with my Unbelieving Loved Ones?

July 24, 2022

Matthew 7:13-14, Various

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, Rom. 6:23. In Christ our sin is erased, but apart from Christ, we are lost.

Matt. 7:13-14, The way to life in Christ is a narrow gate, difficult, and few find it. This truth fills us with thanksgiving and compels us to worship the Lord.

There are two layers that we must peel back to test our motives: 1st Layer: How are we going to interact with them? 2nd Layer: Our heart before the Lord.

There is one solution to these issues: **Truth from the Word of God.** These layers test our fidelity and trust in God. Will we stand in judgement of God or trust His Word?

7 Truths to Build a Platform of Peace and Conviction:

- 1) **God chose those to be saved:** Eph. 1:4, the word "chose," is the word "elect." 1 Pet. 1:1-2, the "elect." From V2, the word "foreknowledge," isn't passive but active knowledge. Rom. 9:23, "vessels of mercy, which He had (active verb) prepared beforehand for glory." Why did He choose us? Eph. 1:4- "in love." Will I bow to God's choice or not?
- 2) **Family of God is defined by obedience to the Gospel:** not by family relationships. From Matt. 8:21, love for God demonstrated by obedience, not love for the world. V22, the spiritually dead can worry about the spiritually dead. Jesus answers who His mother's and brothers are: Mk. 3:32-35. Mk. 3:21 - His own people thought He was out of His mind. Luke 11:27-28, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it. There are no spiritual favors for family. Jesus' mother, brothers: James and Jude, became and were believers, but Jesus never singled them out because of their family relationship to Him.
- 3) **Salvation is the work of God alone:** Rom. 3:10-18, no one is righteous. John 3: 6-8, the Holy Spirit saves whom He wishes. Acts 9, Paul was blinded and chosen to serve God. Acts 16:14, Lydia's heart was opened to hear Paul's message. Acts 13:48, "as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed." Jn. 6:44, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him." 1 Pet. 1:3, God "has begotten us."
- >>>**What about the one that wants to be saved, but God rejects? That person doesn't exist.**
- 4) **The Lost will be judged in total righteousness:** Matt. 11:28, He gives rest. Matt. 9:12, the sick who recognize they need a physician hear the Gospel. Rev. 20:12, the books of the deeds of unbelievers are opened and are insufficient to save.
What about a 2nd chance? Two faulty assumptions: A) They weren't given enough chances. B) That being in hell would change their mind, Luke 16:19-31. V24, even still he didn't repent and wanted still to be served. God's judgement will be righteous and deserved.
- 5) **In the Coming Kingdom your passion for the glory of God will be all-consuming:** Rev. 4:11, honor and glory given to God. Since God's holiness and perfection are infinite, violations against Him are infinite. James 2:10, we are guilty of all sins, even if we only fail in one, a sin can't be undone. God's glory is the object of the Psalms: Ps. 8:1; 19:1, 21:5; 24:7; 26:8; 29:1, 2, 3; 57:5; 66:2; 71:8; 72:19; 102:15; 104:31; 105:3; 113:4; 115:1. We cast our crowns before Jesus as the one worthy of glory, Rev. 4:10.
1 Pet. 4:11, God will be glorified through everyone who He has loved. BY: 1) Salvation of the elect, Rom. 9:23. 2) Righteous eternal judgement of the lost, Rev. 4:10.

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6) **Whatever grief and heartache you have now will be removed:** Rev.21:4, no tears of sadness- God Himself wipes them away. No death, no more separation. No more mourning, the agony of loss and remembrance will be removed by God. No more crying or agonized wailing. No more weeping. No more pain or affliction or anguish.

>>>**What about my loved ones now? What do I do?**

7) **The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation:** Rom. 1:16. Will I be loyal to God or my loved ones? The Gospel is the means by which our family members will be saved.

Three (3) Weapons of the Gospel Message in our fight for our loved ones:

- 1) **Prayer that is extraordinary:** Lev.6:13, a peace offering was always before the Lord. Col. 4:3, Paul asked for prayers that would open a door to proclaim Christ. 2 Thess. 3:1, prayers were asked that the word of the Lord would run swiftly. Schedule time to pray for loved ones.
- 2) **Protection that is an example:** In Ezra 4:3, unbelievers were excluded from worship. In Ezra 6:21, the example of Israel had brought many to worship the Lord.
 - a. **In the church:** believers are always welcomed. If they disrupt or are disrespectful, they are not.
 - b. **In the family:** men are to protect their children and spouse from evil and wickedness. They are to protect peace and sanctity of their home and be obedient to the Lord and live a sanctified and set apart life and honor the Lord.
- 3) **Persistence that is extensive:** There is a time where grace will no longer be extended to unbelievers, Heb. 10:26-27. **BUT** the Lord is the one who decides that time **NOT** me. Jn. 7:37, let those who thirst come to Christ. 1 Cor. 4:10, we are fools for Christ's sake. Acts 4:18-20, we must obey the Lord and speak what He commands.

>>>**We never give up and if rejected, retreat to prayer and ask God to send other.**

Further Discussion and Application

The work of God in salvation is His work alone. Number the times the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are referenced in Eph. 1:1-14. Now read Ephesians chapter 2. What does the grace of God produce in the hearts of those who are saved? What is the ultimate purpose of our salvation (God's glory)?

We see in Rev. 4:10 and 5:11-14, that ALL of the heavens give glory to God for His wisdom and righteousness. Why will we glorify God for His righteous judgements when we are in His presence? Read Rev. 19. What do the saints see the Father do? What is their response to His judgements?

There is a great promise in Rev. 21:4 that God states, the "former things have passed away." What things in life burden us today? Write a prayer that would place your confidence in God to remove those burdens and replace it with trust in God today to help you remain faithful, trusting in Him.