

A publication of  
Genuine Joy Ministries

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- GOD IS LOVE.
- Free will can be a difficult concept to understand.
- Our responsibility is to accept or reject the claims of Jesus.
- Those who are not believers are choosing eternity without God.
- What more could we ever want or wish for but to be finally and completely loved and belong fully to the One who loves us so?

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# The Hard Questions

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## Answers to Life's Hard Questions— Are You Ready?

### Dear Joy...

Okay, you asked for hard questions—answer this one. Christians say God is a loving God, so why does He send people to hell? And if I were a Christian and went to heaven how could I be happy there if a loved one was in hell?

GOD IS LOVE. Most of us are familiar with John 3:16: “for God so loved the world...”—the whole entire world, meaning the people who have lived and are living. His love was shown to us through his Son, Jesus Christ and the many miracles He did in His short thirty or so years on this earth. He went about healing and doing good and even to laying down his life to pardon our sins.

This part of God's love is evident—He gave us free will and He will never go against our free will and the decisions we make. Therefore, anyone who goes to hell goes there of his/her own free will. They make the choice and choose hell for eternity. You might say, “I've never made a choice to follow Christ or to go to hell, either.” But you need to know that not making a choice is making a choice. In deciding not to decide, you've made a decision to **not** accept Jesus as your Savior.

Free will can be a difficult concept to understand. There are and have been, down through history so many who wanted to, tried to, and sometimes succeeded to take away from us our free will in order

to impose their will upon us. Sometimes we give up our free will gladly to some outside force for then we don't have to assume the responsibilities that go with having free will. However, our responsibility to accept or reject the claims of Jesus still remains.



In The Problem of Pain, C.S. Lewis states: “Some will not be redeemed. There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this, if it lay in my power. But it has the full support of Scripture and, specially, of Our Lord's own words; it has always been held by Christendom; and it has the support of reason. If a game is played, it must be possible to lose it. If the happiness of a creature lies in self-surrender, no one can make that surrender but himself (though many can help him to make it) and he may refuse. I would pay any price to be able to say truthfully ‘All will be

saved.’ But my reason retorts ‘Without their will, or with it?’ If I say ‘Without their will,’ I at once perceive a contradiction; how can the supreme voluntary act of self-surrender be involuntary? If I say ‘With their will,’ my reason replies ‘How if they will not give in?’”

Now, as to how a person can be eternally happy in heaven if a loved one doesn't join them there—usually we are thinking of a child or a sibling. Someone very close to us. A child, whom we've conceived, birthed, and raised, concentrating time and love on them, we don't want to lose for eternity. When my daughter was twelve, she asked to read a book my father had given me. It was entitled, *The Rapture*; the author's name I've long forgotten. It was a very old book and a little hard to read, I thought, for a twelve-year old, but she insisted so I let her. One night I was sitting reading when she came out of her room sobbing. In asking her what was wrong, she said, “I don't want to be left behind.”

She had gone to church and Sunday school her entire life, but for some reason never found the need for forgiveness. We talked a while about what she





## THANKSGIVING

For each new morning with  
its light,

For rest and shelter of the  
night,

For health and food,

For love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness  
sends.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

could do to not be left behind and I asked her if she'd like to ask Jesus into her heart. She knelt at my knee and accepted Jesus as her Savior then and there. We have to be sensitive and aware of that time when a child or perhaps a brother or sister asks the question and we can give them the answer. But sometimes we plant the seed, someone else waters it, but God gives the increase.

But for those who are not believers, they are choosing eternity without God. There are many descriptions of hell and one of them is, "outer darkness" meaning a place where a person is all alone without loved ones and without God. You can think of it as an eternal solitary confinement. Many people think there will be a big party with lots of friends in "the other place" but sadly they are wrong. As you consider this, wouldn't you rather be dead right than dead wrong? I've lived long enough in this old world to have seen miracle after miracle that could only be attributed to a loving God.

God helps us deal with the loss of a loved one who didn't make it to heaven. Numerous scriptures assure us that there is peace, comfort, joy and great fulfillment in heaven and wherever God is. Perhaps He takes away the memory of the one who didn't make it, I don't know. I am sure of this, though, that our understanding will be complete and we will know Him completely and fully and all that His love implies. The scripture says in I Corinthians 13:12, "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror, then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall fully know, even as I am fully known."

What more could we ever want or wish for but to be finally and completely loved and belong fully to the One who loves us so?

## - Resources & Info: - - - - -

### Books:

*"One Minute after You Die"* by Erwin W. Lutzer

### Websites:

[Who is going to hell?](#)

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving

and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:3-5



# Genuine Joy Ministries

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## Helping you find genuine joy!

Scripture quotations taken from the *New International Version*.  
Used by permission of Zondervan-Live Life Inspired.



Sometimes you come up with really hard, tough questions that you don't have the answers to.

At times you're too embarrassed or uncomfortable to ask your friends and family... and when you are brave enough to ask the questions, even they don't always have the answers.

You don't think you have anyone that you can talk to... well now you do.

Genuine Joy Ministries is dedicated to helping you find the answers to life's hardest questions.

Write us—Email us

## Just for Fun And then the fight started...

My wife sat down on the couch next to me as I was flipping channels. She asked, 'What's on TV?' I said, 'Dust.' And then the fight started...

I rear-ended a car this morning. So, there we were alongside the road and slowly the other driver got out of his car. You know how sometimes you just get soooo stressed and little things just seem funny? Yeah, well I couldn't believe it.... He was a DWARF!!!

He stormed over to my car, looked up at me, and shouted, "I AM NOT HAPPY!!!" So, I looked down at him and said, "Well, then which one are you?" And then the fight started.....

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive...so, I took her to a gas station. And then the fight started

If you know someone who would be interested in or needs to see this newsletter, you can easily add their email address to our mailing list. Just send a quick email to: [info@genuinejoyministries.org](mailto:info@genuinejoyministries.org)



And I'm not Grumpy either!!!!

