

# TABOO 2

BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MORE TOUGH TOPICS

Part 6: Hell | October 21-22, 2017

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## Why is hell a taboo subject for people?

Hell has been used as a scare tactic for centuries

Hell offends our American sensibilities

Hell is based on the justice and judgment of God

Hell demands difficult realities be faced

Hell is repulsive in its nature and description

- Fiery furnace (Matthew 13:42)
- Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Luke 13:28)
- Outer darkness (Matthew 25:30)
- Eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46)
- Unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43)
- Salted with fire (Mark 9:49)
- Agony in fire (Luke 16:24)

## Views On Hell

**Eternal torment** (also called traditionalism) has been the most widely held belief about the nature of hell. According to this view, the unsaved will suffer in hell for eternity. Many who hold this view teach that hell is a place with literal fire that burns but never consumes. Others suggest that the fire should be interpreted metaphorically, representing the anguish of separation from God.

**Conditional immortality** (also called annihilationism) is based on the idea that human souls are not inherently immortal. Conditionalists teach that only God is immortal and that human immortality is only possible through union with Jesus Christ. Thus those who have rejected Christ will not continue living in any sense. They believe that hell is a place of complete destruction.

**Universal reconciliation** (also called Christian universalism) teaches that people in hell can still repent and place their faith in Christ. Unlike the pluralist version of universalism, Christian universalism affirms that Jesus is the only way to God. Adherents to this view believe that God never stops pursuing the lost, even after their judgment. So in theory, everyone can eventually be saved. – *Excerpt from the Faithlife blog by Chuck McKnight*

## **The Truth About Hell**

Jesus taught that hell is real (*Matthew 5:22, 29-30*)

Jesus taught that hell was not intended for humans (*Matthew 25:41*)

Hell is chosen (*Romans 2:5-11*)

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, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. – C.S Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

"I willingly believe that the damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; that the doors of Hell are locked on the inside."

– C. S Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

Hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice. – G.K Chesterton

### **For each of us:**

**When it comes to hell, you have a choice.**

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Which of the taboo topics (Addiction, Divorce, Death & Dying, Suicide, Racism, Hell) has meant the most to you? Why?
- 2) What are some other reasons the topic of hell is so hard for people?
- 3) Was hell ever used as a scare tactic in your life? What happened?
- 4) What would you say to someone who is struggling to reconcile a loving God with eternal punishment?
- 5) With all of this talk of hell, what sweet promise of heaven can you share that brings hope into this conversation?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?