

How Could a Loving God Send

Anyone to Hell?

When evil people are given a long prison sentence for certain crimes, it is viewed as Just (i.e. 152 years - Double life sentence)

- I. How Could a Loving God Send Anybody to Hell? (Assumptions behind the question)
 - A. People tend to work from their own definition of love
 - B. Assume a Loving God loves all people equally
 - C. We tend to view people as generally "good" - at least not deserving of an eternity in Hell
- II. Who is God? (His Attributes show who and what He is)
 - A. God is Independent:
 1. Complete in Himself and needs nothing because He lacks nothing
 2. He does not owe His existence to anything / anyone outside of Himself
 3. He is complete and prior to anything else (Exodus 3:14)
 4. He does not need anything and nothing can make Him more or less than what He already is . . .
 5. He is the creator of all things - He gives life and breath to all things (Acts 17:24-25)
 6. He defines all things - all categories (i.e. Love - Being, etc.)
 7. We cannot make God conform or comport to our standards - our definitions
 - B. God is Holy
 1. Completely separate from sin - true all the time and for all time and eternity
 - a) 1 Peter 1:15-16
 - b) Exodus 15:11
 - c) Isaiah 8:13
 2. He does not / cannot act in any way that is unholy, impure or in a manner that could be defined as wrong or sinful
 3. Isaiah 6:1-3 - Three-fold repetition signifies that He is perfectly Holy - no other being can share in His holiness
 4. His treatment of all creatures will be right, true, and just in accordance with His pure, perfect holiness

5. Isaiah 8:13 - Habakkuk 1:13
6. His holiness demands He acts against sin/those who commit sin

C. God is Love

1. 1 John 4:8 - God is the definition of Love; therefore everything He does is in some way characterized by His Love!!!
2. John 3:16
3. His judgments against sin/sinners is not only holy, but it is also loving - in that, His love for holiness means that sin must be dealt with (- also - Justice, Righteousness, etc.)
4. Would a loving God punish sin? Yes! Will a loving God send a guilty sinner to Hell? Yes!
5. His Love is consistent with His other Attributes . . .

D. God is Righteous

1. Deuteronomy 32:4
2. Psalm 97:2
3. "God's Righteousness is His holiness applied to His relationships to other beings" (M. Eriksen)
4. Righteousness means that the Law of God - being a true expression of His nature - is as perfect as He is
5. It means that His actions are in accordance with the Law He has established
6. God is the Definition of Righteousness
7. By definition, all of God's actions are Righteous and Just in all situations, at all times
8. His Righteousness will never change. Thus, he will punish sin - provide true justice in a righteous manner

E. God is Unity

1. He cannot violate His nature