

Discussion Questions for Heaven verses Hell

This week, the Flatirons Church staff will be on retreat Monday-Wednesday. We will be working through some of the “so what’s?” from the XFC series. So, this week, I’m going to ask you to work through some of the same questions.

We have been asking, over and over, “Who is this God that I am being asked to trust?”

Summary: God is a good and great God who made all things good. Sin entered the world through man’s rebellion against God resulting in a just God judging that sin and everything sin touched. Since that time, the world and everything in it has been in bondage to decay and death. But, in the same breath, God who is good set in motion a chain of events to send his Son, Jesus, to rescue us from the eternal consequences of sin and, eventually, even the physical consequences of decay. By faith and trust in Jesus, there is now, no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Jesus promises to lead us, guide us, protect us and even walk through death with us. He promises to use ALL things for our good and to demonstrate His own glory. We have no fear of death trusting in the promise of Jesus that to be absent from the physical body is to be present with the Lord. We look forward to the promise that one day (soon), Jesus will physically come back to gather those who are his, put a final end to the consequences of sin and reward those who are trusting in Jesus. God has and will keep every promise He’s ever made. You can trust God.

I want to put a spin on a teaching that I used as a youth pastor years ago when I was teaching kids to pray. We would use the acronym A C T S.

A....Adoration...tell God what you think of Him

C...Confession...confess to God where you are falling short.

T...Thank Him for taking care of you

S...Supplication...that’s a fancy word for “ask him for what you need”.

So...in light of what we have been learning over the past 5 weeks...

1. A. Make a list of as many of the attributes and characteristics of God. Fill up a page or two if you need. Give examples of how he has demonstrated this attribute, either in Scripture or in your own life. (example...powerful/he created the universe, very good/he created all things perfectly, just, fair, forgiving, etc.) Write all of these words/descriptions in a column on the left side of the page.
2. Skip ahead to S...Supplication. What are the big things you are facing in your life right now? Your family? Your relationships? Your career? Your finances? Decisions? Now, make a list of all of your needs and challenges on the right hand side of the page.
3. We have learned that all of the questions and challenges of life can be answered and addressed in a greater question, “Who is God?” Now, draw a line that connects your needs with who God is. Which of his attributes directly address

- your need? If God is who He says He is, what do you sense He is telling you about your need?
4. C...be honest. Is there a part of you that doubts or wonders if God can really make a difference in your situation? Why is that? Could it be that you are only open to one answer and if God answers differently, too often, we conclude that He didn't help? What is standing in the way of you trusting God?
 5. T...in faith, trusting that God will meet your need and lead you in the way you should go and he'll keep every promise he's ever made to you...can you pray to him and thank him in advance for what he is about to do?

You can do the above as a group and share your responses or you can do this exercise individually.