

HC Q&A 10-11 – How God Responds to Man’s Rebellion

Beloved in Christ: Your sweetest baby and your dearest grandmother have one thing in common: They are both rebels by inheritance and by nature against the one true holy God of heaven and earth. Let’s take it a step farther: Your cutest baby and Hitler have one thing in common: They are both rebels by inheritance and by nature against the one true God of heaven and earth.

Doesn’t that hurt? It probably does, but it is true. Your loving heavenly Father wants you to hear the truth! You have been in rebellion against him from your mother’s belly – and you justly deserve what is coming to you! That is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

God’s Response to Man’s Rebellion Explained

God’s Response to Man’s Rebellion Confirmed

Our goals are: That you will see what you and your children deserve, so in turn, you can praise the Lord better for your salvation, and work for the rescue of those who are still under his just condemnation.

God’s Response to Man’s Rebellion Explained

Q.10 Will God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not. He is terribly angry about the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge He punishes them now and in eternity. He has declared: "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them."

1. There can be no doubt God was angry – very angry- when man chose to sin against him in the Great Rebellion in Eden.

2. You can see the evidence of God’s anger by the severity of what he started to do to Adam and Eve.

a. God put them out of the beautiful and bountiful Garden.

b. God made man’s work hard. God hurt man by cursing the ground. Man became sore and sweaty from his work! Thorns and thistles marked out his path.

c. God cursed women with pains in conception and giving birth and with the multiplicity of conception. (This meant there would be an increasing frequency of pregnancy. Isn’t the greatest difficulty of women to have 3 under 3?) This was part of the curse.

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children..."

d. God cursed women with a rebellious spirit against their husbands. Really? Where do we see that?

Genesis 3:16...Your desire shall be **for your husband**, and he shall rule over you.

This was a curse. **Eve was not longing to be by her husband's side.** This verse is best translated: "Your desire shall be toward your husband...to his authority." One paraphrase of the Bible, translates this as: "You shall desire to please your husband." This **does not fit** into the context of 3 direct curses!

To get the proper meaning, look how this word is used when Cain murdered his brother. Genesis 4:7 "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And **its desire is for you**, but you should rule over it."

"Sin's desire for Cain was a not a desire to "please" Cain but a desire to "master" Cain. Similarly, Eve craved for the power to rule her husband, not to please him. Men and women became selfish after the fall. **More, no one is "cursed" with a desire to serve!**

e. The whole human race declined to the point that "all the thoughts and intents of the heart were only evil continually." So God wasn't just angry with man, he was furious with man.

3. There can be no doubt God was angry with the sins man continued to commit after the Great Rebellion.

And he showed the same disdain for sin.

Psalm 5: 4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.⁵ The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; **You hate all workers of iniquity.** ⁶ You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

Notice the strong language of the Psalms. God does not just dislike sin, he abhors sin. He could have used milder words.

Nahum 1:2 **God is jealous**, and the LORD avenges; **The LORD avenges and is furious.** The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;

Isn't anger more furious if it were driven by jealousy? Jealousy is as cruel as the grave, Solomon said. Jealousy leads to rage. Consider the Apostle Paul's warning to Christians!

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "**Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law,** to do them."

4. God punishes sin starting in this world and culminating in the final judgment in hell.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, **but after this the judgment,**

John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice** 29 "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and **those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.**

Acts 24: 15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, **that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.**

Jehovah's Witnesses miss this. They believe there is no life after death. (Mark these verses so you can use them when the JW's). They believe you simply cease to exist-except for 144,000. But God's anger is so severe he ordains **eternal judgment.** Do you see why you can find no comfort in your sin? There is none!

Do you see why the teaching of purgatory is dangerous? Do you see why you need to evangelize the lost?

God's Response to Man's Rebellion Confirmed

Q11. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful, **but He is also just.** His **justice demands that sin,** committed against His supreme majesty, **be punished** with the **supreme penalty**-- eternal punishment of body and soul.

1. Yes, God is merciful – genuinely merciful – the Bible says so.

Psalm 103: 8 The **LORD is merciful** and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.

Deuteronomy 7: 9 "Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God **who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations** with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 "and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face.

2. God is also merciful but he is also just - always just.

Romans 1: 18 For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness** and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

The Lord Jesus explained the seriousness and severity of God's justice upon sin.

Matthew 25: 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into **the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...**46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This means God justly targets those who are rebellious against him.

Hebrews 10: 30 For we know Him who said, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,**" **says the Lord.** And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

God is not unfair to anyone who is sent to hell. The wicked are getting their fair treatment.

3. So some argue because God is a merciful God, he can simply let the punishment for Adam and his descendants slide – he can just wipe man’s slate clean – and restore man close to him.

But if God simply wiped men’s slates clean without any penalty, he would not be a just God anymore. His nature is perfectly holy. His laws can never change. **His perfectly holy unchangeable nature requires he be just.** That means if man sinned, man had to die. .

4. Some who accuse God of being unfair in only showing mercy to some are in error because mercy is a gift!

No one is obligated to give a gift to **anyone**, and surely no one is obligated to give a gift to **everyone**. No one sins if he doesn’t give a gift to everyone. God shows mercy to whomever he wills. Romans 9.

5. This non-contradicting nature God has caused him to demand the full penalty of sin be put upon man.

That supreme penalty is eternal punishment of body and soul.

In order to show mercy, he had to still fulfill his justice. His mercy is not greater than his justice. His justice is not greater than his mercy.

Exodus 34: 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering,** and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, **by no means clearing the guilty,** visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation."

6. Let’s consider how other religions deal with the issue of judgment:

a. Muslims’ god simply forgives sins without true justice or only with minimal justice. Some Muslims simply redefine sin and calls it a mistake and let it slide. If the sin were serious, the Muslim god teaches that the offender would have to go to hell for a little

punishment then sent to Paradise. In other words: There is no eternal condemnation for sin. **But with Jehovah, there is no small sin!**

b. Roman Catholics argue no one will be permanently sent to hell, but that God will purge all souls over time. But God's Word never teaches of a purging of people after death. No, those who are in rebellion against God will face everlasting punishment. The saved will go to heaven.

c. Hindus believe your judgment is you might come back after you die as someone or something better or worse...and you can ameliorate conditions in the next life by being better in this life. So they reject eternal condemnation. Further, animals have no souls, but men have souls.

d. Jehovah's Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists argue you will simply cease to exist. (Some believe you will cease to exist after a short punishment.) So they reject eternal condemnation to hell.

e. Socialists argue God is unfair because God is fair to some, and merciful to others. They think that God should show mercy to everyone. They demand God becomes a Marxist! God isn't Marxist and God is ashamed of the Jew that promoted this concept. He condemns to hell those who don't have a Savior.

7. Only the Bible is truthful enough to describe the severe judgment of God on sin.

All **other religions either remove judgment, or they lessen the severity of judgment.**

Those who believe God is not severe in his judgment and that he tolerates sin are deceiving you.

Ephesians 5: 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

Warning: When you **don't see the degree of your sins**, you will **never see the depth of your salvation** Jesus offers. And you will therefore **never appreciate him for it.**

Conclusion:

God was most terribly angry with Adam's sin, and he is most terribly angry when people add to Adam's sin in their daily lives. And you see the **severity of his judgment by sending man to hell for eternity**. Yes, God is merciful, **but God is also just in his essential nature**, and he has to send man to hell. To do otherwise would have been to contradict his nature. He showed his mercy to you by **putting your full justice on Jesus**.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. When you see what you deserved, and when you see what God did for you through Jesus, respond with awe!

2. Then let it inspire you to worship enthusiastically and earnestly. Jump out of your bed Sunday morning!

3. Then let it motivate you to work energetically. Work by your word and life to lead those in darkness to receive God's mercy. And children, show your younger siblings what it means to live for your Savior!

Finally: **If God is fair to you, he will send you to hell.** But he offers his mercy to you. He offers to count Jesus' death as yours. Jesus paid God's justice in full. Will you take this offer today? Or will you wait for God's justice? This is the most consequential choice you will ever make in your life. Make the right choice!