

Super Natural

Hell: Myth or Reality?

Is there really a hell? You know, a fiery inferno where souls are tortured for all eternity for their sins? You might not be surprised to learn that the majority of Christians don't believe in a hell ... but apparently there are a lot of non-Christians who aren't so sure. Perhaps it's because there's so much evil in the world that it doesn't take much imagination to picture a home for all things dark. Is hell a fairy tale story created to scare us into obedience? Or is there something darker behind the thin places? This week, the Conversation will explore these questions as we talk about Hell: Myth or Reality?

Luke 16:19–31

1. There are three popular “Christian” solutions to hell: _____, _____, and _____.
2. _____ believed in hell.
3. The biblical images of hell are _____.
4. What if _____ about hell?
5. No matter what we *want* to believe, Christians _____
_____ ...

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll explore my belief about the Bible with peers this week
- I'll ask 3 unchurched friends whether they believe in hell or not and why (and just listen!)
- I'll live my life “as if ...”

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Scripture: Luke 16:19–31

Introduction: The question of hell is a difficult one in the midst of a cultural milieu of political correctness. The notion that we will be held accountable for our religious, moral, and ethical choices seems antithetic to a god of love, peace, and harmony. “Christians” that claim Jesus is *the* only way to the Father are often labelled hate-mongering, narrow-minded, bigots. And so the doctrine of hell has recently fallen on hard times ... with older Christians. But many young adult Christians see a world that’s already gone to hell, so the belief of a spiritual hell doesn’t seem so farfetched.

1. Sunday’s *Count Me In* invited you to ask three unchurched friends about whether or not they believed in hell ... and why. What did you learn from your friends? (If you didn’t get a chance before now, send a text to a couple unchurched friends and see if you can get some quick feedback.)
2. When you were younger, what were you taught about hell, what it’s like, and who goes there?
3. Read Luke 16:19–31 and Matthew 25:41–46. What was the apparent criteria used to judge the rich man and the “goats” as unfit for heaven?
4. Read Mark 9:47–48. Given these three passages, what do you think Jesus believed about hell? Does this matter?
5. Where would you draw the line for those who should be assigned to hell? (Judas? Pilate? Hitler? bin Laden? Pedophiles? Murderers? Thieves? Atheists? Unbelievers?)
6. Do you agree with Dr. Bill’s suggestion that what we believe may or may not reflect reality? Why or why not?
7. What would you need to change if you were going to act “as if” Jesus was right about hell?

Who will you invite to worship with you this week?
