

I've Been Meaning to Ask Discussion Questions Week Four

- 1) In John Mark Comer's Live No Lies book, he writes, "I don't personally think God sends anyone to hell; I think he respects and honors our human dignity and freedom of choice. And I don't buy the idea of hell as an eternal torture chamber. I understand many people believe that, and I respect that, but I don't. I don't think it comes from Jesus's teachings or the New Testament but from medieval fantasy and fundamentalist anger. The opposite of life isn't torture; it's death. Most of my secular friends assume that when they die, they will cease to exist. While I don't claim to know the specifics, I imagine they aren't that far off the mark. Of course, Jesus was very clear that there is a postmodern judgment coming, so there's a mystery here I can't entirely explain." Pastor Aaron shared the same understanding in the message. Why is it against God's character to have hell as an eternal torture chamber?
- 2) Revelation 21:1-3 says, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.'" As you ponder this verse, how is this different from what you imagine eternity with God to be?
- 3) In The New Testament in Its World book, N. T. Wright writes on page 886, "In Jesus' cross and resurrection, God defeated the powers that have enslaved the world and launched the new creation. Without this perspective, the church mission collapses into trying to persuade people that they really want a new religious experience or that they really want to go to heaven when they die (and that we have the secret ticket). Mission in the New Testament is about colonizing earth with the life of heaven, so that one day, whenever the Lord wills, the old earth will be healed and renewed, God's renewed people will reign with Jesus over his new world, peace and life will subdue hostility and death, and God will be all in all." Pastor Aaron is helping us understand that the answer to the questions we are asking in the series is that, in the end, we need to focus more on learning to love one another so people see Jesus as we follow Him. Why is showing people the love of Jesus so they will follow Him the best answer for the church and us as individuals?
- 4) As we end this series, what has stuck out to you the most through the messages? What has been most challenging for you? How are you learning to follow Jesus and His greatest commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."?