



Tough Questions

The Journey – Fall 2017

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Christian Life Assembly



Tough Question #20



Tough Questions

- **When we read about Israel's children being punished by God beyond a generation. Ref. Exodus 34:7b: "Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." I'm just looking for understanding; is this part of God's cleansing process?**
- **With one exception, Jesus, God does not punish anyone for the sins of others.**



Tough Questions

- **So let's return to the text, "He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation".**
- **A new word perhaps, "targum" were spoken paraphrases, explanations and expansions of the Jewish scriptures (also called the Tanakh) that a rabbi would give in the common language of the listeners.**
- **There are targums written by various ancient Jewish teachers to explain Exodus 34:7 precisely because on its own, and when compared to other scriptures, needed clarity.**



Tough Questions

- So what are we to make of His words then?
- Exodus 20:4 “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. 5 You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; *the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.*”



Tough Questions

- The truth that we are to see is that sin can have lasting and devastating affects on us and our children.
- Because children naturally tend to follow the course of their parents, they are also likely to repeat the same sins.
- When children follow and practice the sins of their fathers then they will justly receive God's judgment – not for the sins of their fathers, but for their own sins.



Tough Questions

- From a targum of Jonathon - Indeed, part of the punishment sent by God on the idolaters among His people was the real possibility of seeing their sins “affect” their children and grandchildren.
- It would seem to me to act as at least a soft deterrent to such sin if the sinner knew he was going to hurt his kid, and their kids, and their kids.
- The issue here is the affect ones sins can have on our descendants.



Tough Questions

- **The best way to answer this question is to establish individual accountability for our works.**
- **Ezek 18:19 “‘What?’ you ask. ‘Doesn’t the child pay for the parent’s sins?’ No! For if the child does what is just and right and keeps my decrees, that child will surely live. 20 The person who sins is the one who will die. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own righteous behavior, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.**



Tough Questions

- **2nd Cor 5:10** For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.
- **Gal 6:7** Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. **8** Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.



Tough Questions

- **Isaiah 3:10 Tell the godly that all will be well for them. They will enjoy the rich reward they have earned! 11 But the wicked are doomed, for they will get exactly what they deserve.**
- **So children do not “pay” for the sins of their parents, but they are often affected by them, and when that happens the judgment of the parents becomes the “earned” judgment of the children.**



Tough Question #21



Tough Questions

- **Do animals go to Heaven? Specifically, do you think we'll get to be with beloved pets that have passed away?**
- **There is no clear cut scriptural answer to this question and this question has been given more attention than most of us may think.**
- **I do not believe God has provided redemption for animals like He has for humans.**



Tough Questions

- **Unfortunately, my answer will be weak on scriptural references because God did not choose to list all of the things we can think of that are not true. 😊**
- **For example, He did not detail for us in the Genesis record of creation why evolution is impossible.**
- **Nor did He choose to tell us why only some of the fallen angels were locked in the bottomless pit, and why some have been free to roam the earth and oppose God's people.**



Tough Questions

- **What do we know for certain?**
- **We know that the death of Christ was for the redemption of lost people – in fact, there is nothing in the scriptures that even suggests that animals can sin.**
- **We can say with certainty that animals are under the same curse of sin as humans, and the environment, but no where do we see an animal (or the environment) sinning.**



Tough Questions

- Interesting scripture in the “do dogs go to heaven” debate.
- Rom 8:18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, all creation was subjected to God’s curse. But with eager hope, 21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.



Tough Questions

- **But, the earth will not be redeemed in the sense that we will be, rather the earth will be burned up, flee away, and be replaced.**
- **That is the most likely scenario for animals – they will not be given a new eternal body, but clearly there will be animals on the new earth. (new replacement animals)**
- **There are no scriptures that settle this question to everyone's satisfaction.**



Tough Questions

- **It seems to me that animals were created to glorify God and give pleasure to human beings.**
- **That would make them a temporal pleasure for this age very much like marriage is for this life only.**
- **Animals, pets in particular, are for enjoyment in this life and if you enjoy them then you can testify to another of the pleasures that God has given us tastes of.**



Tough Questions

- **God ordained that animals were to be used as living sacrifices for the sins of man. (this seems to argue against animals having souls)**
- **If you think that animals go to heaven, do you also believe that they can go to hell as well – and, if so, are you arguing that they can make moral choices?**
- **And if there is redemption for animals, how do they decide for, or against, a plan of salvation?**



Tough Questions

- **Man’s “pre-emptive authority” over the creation, including the animal kingdom, was demonstrated quite forcefully in a single stroke when God granted mankind permission to kill and eat animals for food (Genesis 9:3-4). (Apologetics Press)**
- **But do animals have souls? Animals may be said to have souls—if the word “soul” is used as the Bible employs it in discussing members of the animal kingdom (i.e., to describe only the physical life force found within all living creatures). But if the word “soul” is used to refer to an immortal soul that one day will inhabit heaven or hell, then no, animals may not be said to possess a soul. This is the only conclusion that can be drawn, respecting the instruction on the subject found within the Word of God. (Apologetics Press)**