

*I'm still struggling to reconcile the concept of a loving, all-powerful God. Why wouldn't he have created man in such a way that they would not be so sinful that the majority go to hell? Since he created us, why didn't he make us so many would go to heaven and/or eliminate Satan? I do find burning someone in a fire eternally to be kind of a harsh punishment for disagreeing with the assertion that Jesus is the Messiah but I am open to the concept.*

Adam and Eve were created perfectly: Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good (Ge 1:30–31). Adam and Eve chose to sin and then all became very bad (Ge 3).

God is holy (Re 3:7). The apostle John wrote: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1 Jn 1:5B).<sup>1</sup> God is not the author of sin (Jas 1:13).

God gave Adam and Eve a will—to choose to good or to choose to do evil (Ge 2:17). They chose the latter (Ge 3). God has worked since that time to bring men back into a right relationship with him (Is 59:2).

If God created men so that they could not sin, then love would not be real. Relationships are the most important thing in the universe (Mk 12:30-31). A return from paradise lost to paradise restored will take some time. Waiting on the Lord takes courage (Lam 3:25-26, Ps 25:3, 27:14, 40:1).

God will cast Satan, the enemy of men's souls (1 Pe 5:8), into the Lake of Fire (Re 20:10). If God says that Hell is an appropriate punishment for Satan and his followers--it is. Men are not nicer than God (Neh 9:17). Any kindness or compassion men have comes from God (Ge 9:6). God can be more than man but he cannot be less. He is the *Creator* (Is 40:28). Man is his *creation* (Ge 1:26, 27).

Jesus is Lord. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess this truth. Men may confess him now as Lord or later as Judge (Ro 14:11). The choice is theirs.

The Holy Spirit takes the things of God and makes them real to the believer (Jn 16:13–16, Mk 9:24, Mt 17:20). If one chooses to humble himself before the Lord, he passes from death to life (1 Jn 3:14). He will not face the second death (Re 20:14).

If men chose to repent, God will forgive them (1 Jn 1:9). It is not his will that any should perish (2 Pe 3:9). God is not arbitrary or capricious. Men reap what they sow (Ga 6:7). This is a law of the universe. God is no respecter of persons. Each will be judged for their works (Eccl 12:14, 2 Cor 5:10). Beliefs have consequences (Jn 3:36).

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<sup>1</sup> Pantheism and panentheism teach that God is all and God is *in* all. Some maintain that because God allowed sin to enter into the world, God himself must be filled with sin or minimally is responsible for sin. This is a false teaching (Mt 15:19).