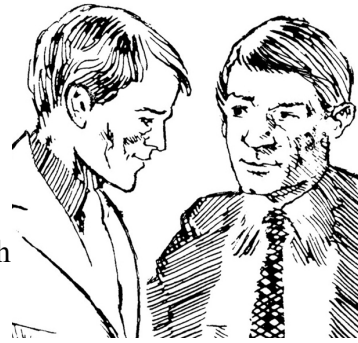


A Question that Most Christians Dread to Hear



1 Corinthians 1:21-31

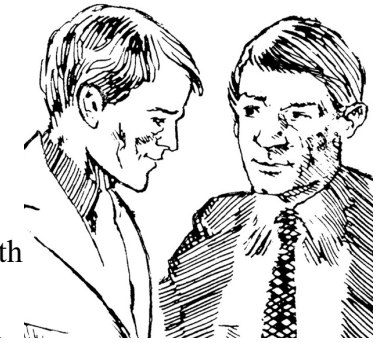
When seeking to share Christ with unsaved people, there are certain questions that frequently arise, such as “What about people who have never heard about Jesus Christ?” Along similar lines, there is another question that believers find extremely difficult to answer. Suppose you are sharing Christ and the person asks, “Are you saying that anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ, as you do, is going to hell?” This question stops most Christians in their tracks. If we deny this and say, “No, I’m not really saying that,” then we are denying the exclusiveness and truth of the Gospel of Christ. On the other hand, if we say, “Yes, if anyone does not believe in Christ, he is going to hell,” then we have affirmed the truth, but have we really helped this individual? We were honest, but we may have helped fulfill a negative stereotype.

How then can we address the issue? The key is to help the other person admit the truth on his own. “Friend, I want to answer that, but do you mind if I first ask you a couple of questions?” “Do you think that people who commit crimes should be punished?” Most people have a built-in sense of justice that people who do wrong should not get away with it. “Have you ever done any wrong thing?” This is getting personal, but most honest people are willing to admit they have done wrong. “Friend, I agree with you that wrong should be punished, and I, like you, am also guilty of having done wrong. This is the bad news. The good news is that the Judge, God Himself, laid aside His robe, became a Man and paid sin’s penalty so that you and I could be completely pardoned.”

Using the person’s own answers, we are able to present Christ and His Gospel!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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