

God Does Not Need More Angels in Heaven

From: In Defense of My Father:
Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God
Part of Chapter 7 “Addressing Misconceptions”
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Misconception> “God needed more angels in heaven.”

This is a well-meaning statement, but it isn't true. God does not need or want more angels in heaven (Rev. 5:11). Nor do human beings become angels in heaven. People say this at funerals to comfort those who mourn, but it is not true. Telling a grieving person that God essentially killed their loved one so He could populate heaven is not helpful. It presents God as a primitive selfish ogre.

So many things are said at funerals when people are trying to figure out why someone passed. At my mom's funeral, someone said, “I think your mom had a death wish,” as if my mom's life was so miserable, she wanted to die. My grief was too intense to respond, but it infuriated me to my core since it insulted my mother.

At another funeral, two ladies behind me were musing about why a thirteen-year-old girl died of cancer. One said to the other, “Well, she was such a strong Christian. Maybe the Lord knew that when she grew up, she would turn away from Him, so He took her now.” They were trying to make sense of a very sad situation, but their theology was so grossly incorrect in so many dimensions, that it would have taken five weeks of Sunday School to reeducate them.

“Well, God knows what He's doing,” is also popular. Of course, He knows what He is doing, but answer this: Is God doing what we are suggesting? Does God have a hit list? Does He plot murder?

Let us stop saying such ignorant things. We should not be casting aspersions on God's character. If you feel you must say or do something for someone who is grieving, bring them a meal, give them a hug and “Mourn with those who mourn. Weep with those who weep.”