

Why Doesn't God Just Save Everyone?

From: In Defense of My Father:

Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God

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“Why doesn’t God just save everyone?”

When Jesus gave His life on the cross, it was to provide a way of salvation to everyone who would believe, and He will reject no one who believes, but God has given each person the right to choose. Some willingly choose not to believe in Him, and Jesus explains why.

John 3:16-21

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ **And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.** ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

The reason people choose to reject the Light is because their deeds are evil. They love their evil lifestyle more than God. To automatically save an evil person intent on evil without him being made a new creation would be to give eternal life to evil. Just as God drove Adam and Eve out of the garden after they fell so that they would not partake of the Tree of Life and live forever, so He will not allow evil to exist in His kingdom (Rev. 21:27).

Note: While each individual needs to personally believe and receive eternal life, forgiveness has already been provided for all. Read this often forgotten and misunderstood passage.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, **not counting people's sins against them**. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

This passage does not in any way imply that everyone is saved universally as some have surmised. The message believers preach to the lost is that Christ Jesus forgave all their sins and is not holding them against them. In this way, God reconciled Himself to mankind. He took the bold step to give His Son in death to provide forgiveness and everlasting life. Our message is, "Be reconciled to God." He took the first step, but we must respond to receive this gift. God is saying, "I forgave your sins on the cross. Now believe in my Son, and you will be saved."