



NEW CITY

Catechism

at St. Andrew's Church

This year as a whole church family we are doing the New City Catechism. A Catechism is just a way to learn truths about God together through questions and answers. You can access it through books (available at the back of church), or through Web and Mobile Apps. The website is www.newcitycatechism.com. Each question has a Bible verse, prayer, commentary (for adults) and song (aimed at kids) to accompany it.

Part 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace Question 28

Question:

What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?



Answer:

They will be cast out from the presence of God, into hell, to be justly punished, forever.

Judge of All the Earth, we tremble to think of the judgment that awaits all outside your covenant. Before it is too late, may those we love be reconciled to you so that they do not suffer the punishment that is theirs, and would have been ours, apart from you. Amen.

For adults and teens:

- How do you feel about God justly punishing people not united to Christ by faith?
- How would you answer a non-Christian who said "God is not just for sending people to hell"?

For families and children:

[for children at school] What is hell like?

Show the children (as appropriate) some people's made up ideas about hell:

- The Nether in Minecraft
- Hell as depicted in the TV series The Simpsons
- A diagram of the circles of hell in Dante's Inferno

Explain to the children that in the world, many people don't take God or the Bible seriously. Tell the children that, sadly, that means they don't understand the reality of life separated from God. They get their idea of hell from cartoons rather than from the Bible. Explain that everyone who has trusted in Christ by faith will go to one place when they die and everyone who hasn't will go to a different place. Explain that people have tried to draw what hell might look like but no one can know exactly what it will be like.

[for older children] Where do people go?

Read John 3:16-18, 36.

- What do we learn about God in these verses? (He is loving, gave up his precious Son, will give his people eternal life)
- What will happen to those who do not believe in Jesus? (those who are condemned will perish - because they have rejected God and sinned. Perishing means eternal separation from God)
- Explain the main thing that characterises hell isn't flames or devils. It's not being with God! We can't really imagine it, but it is the worst thing that could ever happen.
- Tell them hell is a real place, but that God sent his Son to save us so that we don't have to go there. He doesn't want people to perish.