

New City Catechism Class

Week Eighteen

Q18: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

A18: No, every sin is against the sovereignty, holiness, and goodness of God, and against his righteous law, and God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them in his just judgment both in this life, and in the life to come.

Ephesians 5:5-6

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. (ESV)

Discuss the question:

- How might our neighbors or coworkers respond to the idea of God punishing disobedience and idolatry?
- How does this question relate to the last two questions (Q16 and Q17)?
- How does this question relate to question two and to question four?

Discuss the Scripture:

- Why does Paul say "you may be sure of this"?
- Who has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?
- What is the result of "these things"?
- Against what deception is Paul warning them?
- What should be our response to this warning?

Discuss the answer in light of the Scripture:

- Against whom is our sin?
- Is God right to be angry with "little old me"? What does asking this question reveal about the nature of our hearts?
- How will God punish sin in this life?
- How will God punish sin in the life to come?
- Why is this judgment just?
- How does this question point us to the love of God?

Does your life indicate that you believe in the reality of heaven and hell? Have you taken time to assess your heart in light of these realities?

"...on the cross, is all that makes hell into hell, darkness, pain, isolation, sin-bearing, divine judgement, curse alienation, utter darkness, separation from God. If we need to be convinced of the reality of hell, all we need to do is consider the cross. It is all there."

Sinclair Ferguson