

APOLOGETICS



The
Mind's
Journey
to
Heaven





Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?

Underlying questions and assumptions...

Judgment

- Does the world need a judge?
- How does Hell fit with a loving God?
- Why can't I be free to do whatever I want?

➤ *They desire a world without a judge... they want to be free from rules and judgments!*

Fairness

- What about the person in Zimbabwe who never hears the Gospel?
- What about aborted children...children who died at birth...or mentally handicapped children?

➤ *Yet they want their God to be fair in their eyes... i.e. they want to judge God!*

Does the world need a judge?

- On one level this question is border line ridiculous.
- If anyone seriously espouses this they are clearly blinded by a modern, western, prosperous, suburban utopian bubble...and have never considered the immense wrongs going on all around them and in all parts of the world...and in all times of history!

...But let's engage it anyway.

Judgment in the “Works” world view!

Pessimist...Secular

= Thinks they need to abolish all religious constraints to be free

Optimist...Religious Zealot

= Fails to see their sin
= White washed tombs

I tried but gave up!

I just need better equipment!

It looks Impossible!

I can do it
Just need to work harder!

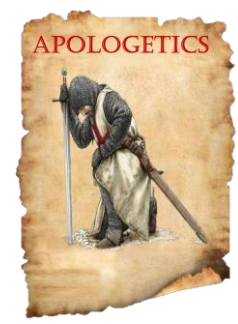
Forget it
Let's party!

Despair
Chaos
Meaninglessness

Great Mountain of “Ought”

Hypocrisy
Anxiety
Futility
Failure





What does this mean?

ON THE ONE SIDE...

.... WE HAVE TO HAVE A JUDGMENT OR WE ARE DESTROYED

BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE...

.... IF WE HAVE A JUDGMENT THEN WE ARE DESTROYED

**DO YOU FEEL THE TENSION?
SEEMS HOPELESS**

Judgment in “God’s” world view



WHAT DOES JUDGMENT LOOK LIKE
IN GOD’S WORLD VIEW?

Great Mountain of “Ought”

Judgment in God's World View

Judged a Failure

Judged a Failure

Death and Destruction = Hell

Great Mountain
of "Rebellion"

Great Mountain
of "Self Righteousness"

OR

Repent
&
Fall on the Cross



Salvation
Judged Righteous



Judgment in the “Gospel” world view!



He imputes Christ righteousness onto us Phil 3:9
He anchors us to heaven Hebrews 6:19
Makes us his children John 1:12
Gives us power not from this world Rom 1:16
Calls us to do good works Eph 2:10
...and to support justice Micah 6:8
Teaches us the joy of climbing Hebrews 12:2

Great Mountain of “Ought”

How does Hell fit with a loving God? Why Can't God Just Forgive Us?

What? I Don't Get It

LOVE IS THE REASON HELL MUST EXIST



&

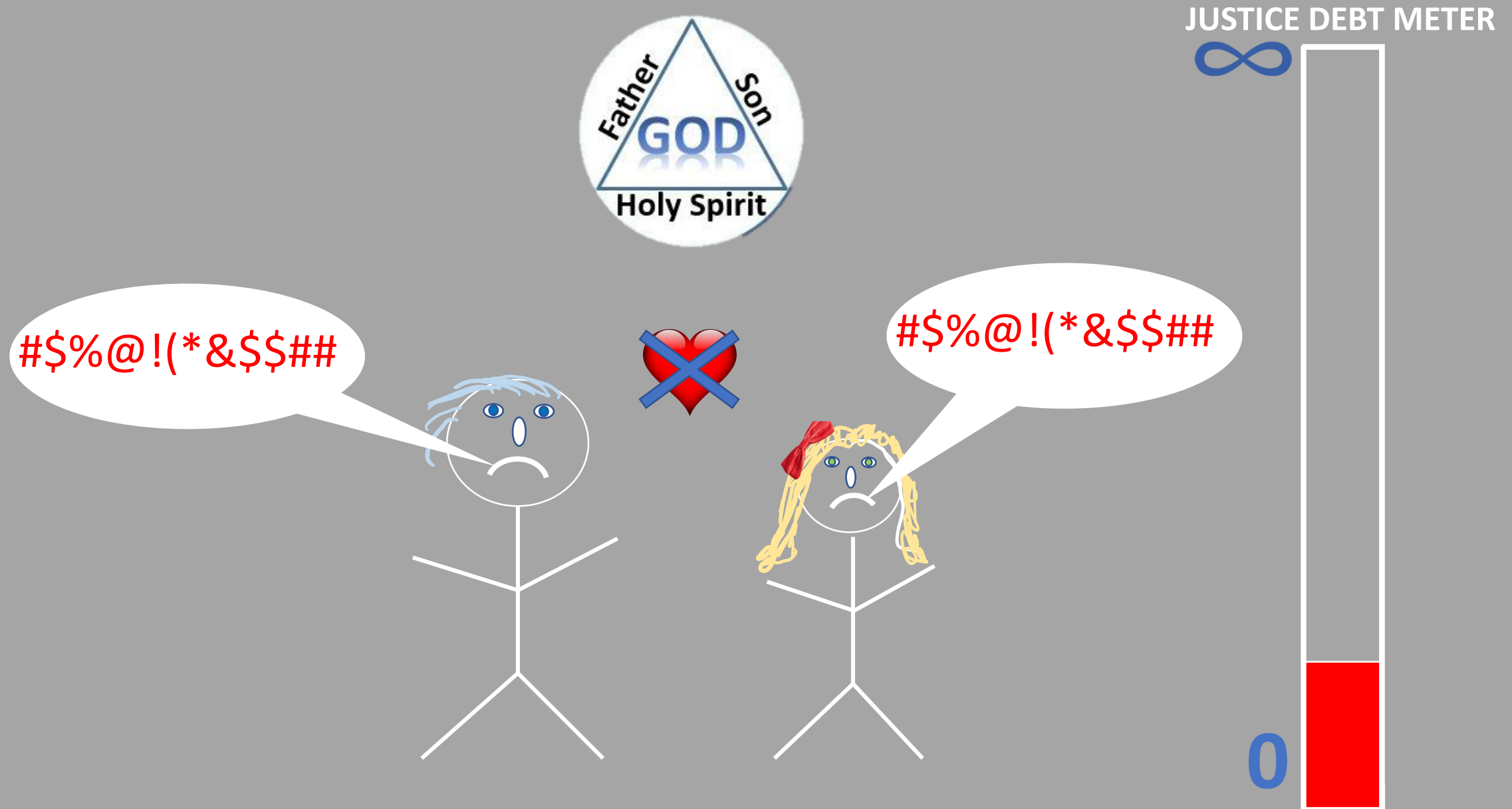
LOVE IS THE REASON THE CROSS EXISTS



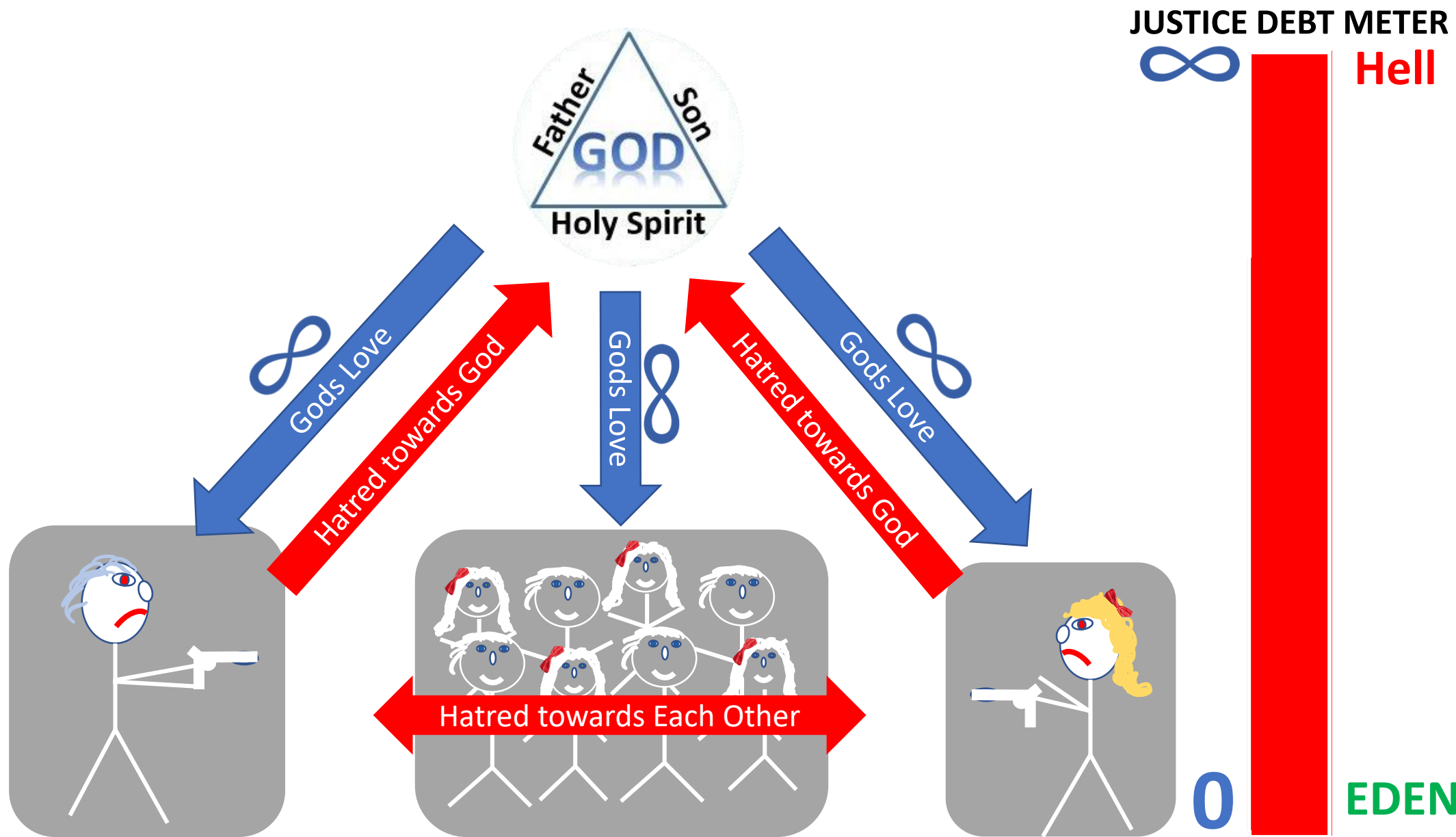
Makes Sense



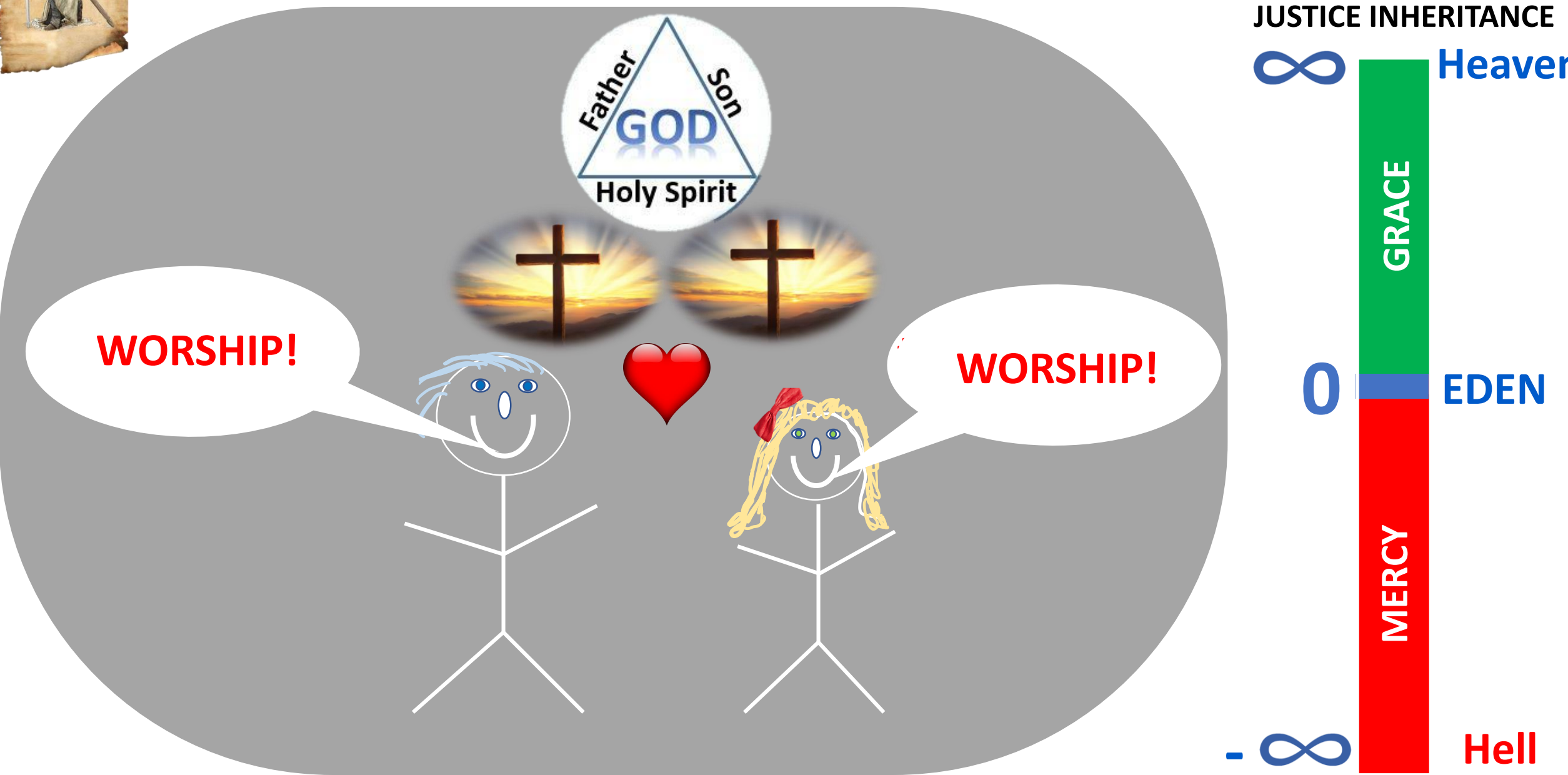
Love Requires Judgment...Sin creates Gaps & Debt



Love Requires Judgment...Debt is TOO Big



Love Is the Reason the Cross Exists...



Why can't I be free to do what I want?

- Define Freedom

- Desire for something
- Ability to do or have something
- Opportunity to do or have something
- No Negative consequences of doing or having it
- Able to do it for eternity



Why can't I be free to do what I want?

- *What is it you want?*

- Sex without responsibility...creates diseases, parentless children, abortions, less intimate love relationships
- Drugs...kills body, damages loved ones, kills productivity, creates slaves to chemicals and nefarious dealers
- Power...corrupts mind, hurts those who try to take it away, can never be satiated
- Beauty...it creates vanity, won't last, attracts people for the wrong reasons
- Lots of Money...you can never get enough, steals your freedom, enslaves you to others, compromises your values

Why can't I be free to do what I want?

- Sin creates desires for things which are destructive to yourself and to others.
- It always comes with a price tag bigger than you can afford.
- It damages the life God gave to us and dishonors His image...i.e. we sin against Him.

This creates slavery and not freedom!

- God offers to us two options...
 1. To change our desires so that we desire things which can give us joy regardless of circumstances...with no negative consequences...for all of eternity...with a never ending increase to the joy and pleasures of God...i.e. True Freedom. JOHN 8:31
- OR
2. To let us pursue just what we want...a life without God...but this is the definition of Hell...the opposite of freedom.



What about the person who never hears the Gospel?

- No one goes to Hell because they never heard the Gospel.
- We go to Hell because we sin...we don't love God...we want nothing to do with God...period.
- Ultimately, He gives us what we want.
- God is free to offer mercy but he is not obligated to do so.
- No one who seeks the Lord's mercy will be turned away.
- God ensures all of those given to the Lord will hear the Gospel and receive it.
- *But what about you...
you are hearing the Gospel... What do you want?*



What about aborted children...children who died at birth...or mentally handicapped children?

- The Bible does not address this explicitly but here are the principles which are Biblical and should be used to address this question.
 - God is merciful. EPH 2:4, TITUS 3:5, HEB 4:16
 - God cares about the weakest among us. EXODUS 22:21-24 PSALM 146:9 JAMES 1:27
 - God formed us in our mother's womb and never makes a mistake. PSALM 139
 - To whom much is given much is required...little is given...little is required. LUKE 12:48 MATT 25:14-30
- When someone is saved...it is always because of God's mercy and grace...period.
- Only God can judge our hearts and we know he will be just.

*➤ But the fact you can ask this question means you are accountable
...so do you want salvation?*

What about aborted children...children who died at birth...or mentally handicapped children?

- The age of accountability...***CAUTION...MY OPINION***
 - Isaiah 7:14-17
 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah – he will bring the king of Assyria.”
 - 2 Samuel 12:16-23
 - ²² He said, “While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, ‘Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?’ ²³ But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.”
- We must preach the Gospel to ALL. Don’t assume they cannot understand.
- Let the Lord be the judge and savior.
- Only He can handle the weight of this question...or he would have given us more in scripture to handle it.

Where are we going to go?

- **Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians**

- How do we know God exists?
- Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?
 - Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
 - Evolution has proven that we were not created.
- Can you trust the Bible as accurate?
- How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?
- Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
- **Aren't all people basically good?**
- Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
- Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?
- Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money? Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?
- Optional – Crowd generated questions...open Q&A

- **Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith**

- Islamic Arguments
- Roman Catholic Arguments
- Hinduism Arguments
- Mormonism Arguments
- Buddhism Arguments