

Going to Heaven?

Why was Jesus so emphatic that not everyone will make it to heaven?

Perhaps when we read His words (Matthew 7.15-23) we feel angry that a loving God will discriminate against some people.

However, we need to realise, first, that if God obliged everyone to dwell forever in His holy presence, that would not demonstrate His love.

That would be a denial of His love, because God is not in the business of forcing people - whether they like it or not - to love him and to be love by Him in return.

Second, if this did happen, it would surely be a flagrant abuse of a fundamental God-given human freedom we enjoy, namely to be able to love or not love whom we choose.

Third, it is - in any case - a contradiction in terms to talk about being forced to love someone.

Love is something offered, not something imposed.

Fourth, God has never declared that what we want is of no consequence.

That is why He doesn't say that we must be saved, whether we want to be or not.

We are completely free to say no to God - and all that He stands for - if that is our choice.

GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

By all means let us treasure our free will. But let us also make sure that we do not misuse it.

Ken Packer