

God, Where is
My Baby?



While the Bible never says it, what we know of God's Word gives solid grounds for believing that infants who die are safe in the arms of Jesus.



Truth #1:

God loves your baby more than you do.

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God's love is what morally drives Him to offer salvation:

John 3:16 (ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"

God's love is the reason God's people are secure:

Isaiah 54:10 (ESV)

"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you"

Truth #1: God loves your baby more than you do.

*God's love is the example
for our love:*

1 John 4:9-10 (ESV)

"In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

*God's love is the reason God's
people are restored when they sin:*

Jeremiah 31: 2-3 (ESV)

"Thus says the Lord:
"The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."

Truth #1: God loves your baby more than you do.

God's love is merciful in offering salvation:

Romans 5:6-9 (ESV)

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

God's love is merciful in offering salvation:

Titus 3:5 (ESV)

"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit"

Truth #1

God loves your baby more than you do.

Love's Limit #1

God gives freedom and holds us responsible for our response to Him.

Love's Limit #2

God will not change His Nature or Identity because of His love.

Love's Limit #3

God's love does not extend his offer of salvation after someone has died rejecting Christ.

Love's Limit #4

God's love is displayed in His punishment of sin and sinners.

Love's Limit #5

God will not use love as an excuse to act unjustly.



Dr. John Feinburg

"God must be immutable in his person, purposes, will (decree), and ethical rules"

Feinberg, J. S. (2001). No One Like Him: The Doctrine of God (p. 271). Crossway Books.

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Truth #2:

God cares more about justice than you do.

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God's Justice is based in His moral character - which is why it can be trusted.

Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV)

The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."

Truth #2:

God cares more about justice than you do.

God's Justice is based in His moral character - which is why it can be trusted.

Psalm 89:14 (ESV)

"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."

Truth #2: God cares more about justice than you do.

God's justice is not grounded in our feelings or sense of fairness

Isaiah 55:8-9 (ESV)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

God's justice is not affected by our socio-economic status.

Leviticus 19:15 (ESV)

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."

Truth #2: God cares more about justice than you do.

Biblical Justice is not grounded in social status

Exodus 23:3 (ESV)

"Nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit."

Biblical Justice is not influenced by bribery.

Deuteronomy 10:17 (ESV)

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe."

Truth #2: God cares more about justice than you do.

God's justice is in accordance to what we know.

Romans 2:12-16 (ESV)

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus."

Truth #2: God cares more about justice than you do.

God's Justice is in accordance with our works.

Romans 2:6

"He will render to each one according to his works"

Revelation 20:12-13 (ESV)

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done."

Truth #2: God cares more about justice than you do.

God's Justice is satisfied by Christ's work on our behalf if we accept it through faith in Jesus.

Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

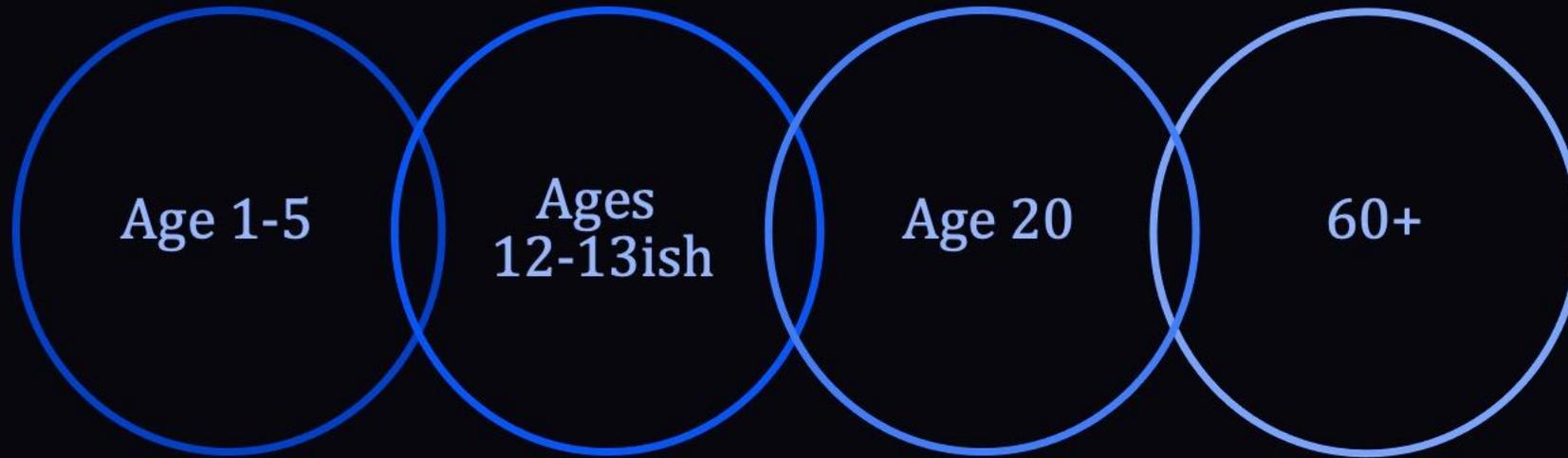
Romans 8:1

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Truth #3:

God consistently treats children differently
in Scripture.

Jewish Conception of Age and Legal Accountability (Leviticus 27:1-8)



Age 1-5ish

Does not know right from wrong and therefore is not considered accountable as an adult would be for breaking a law.

Age 5-20ish

Beginning to become an adult and therefore the boys must study the Torah. Growing accountability.

Age 20

Men became a legal adult and were expected to serve in the army. They also became fully legally accountable for their actions.

Age 60+

The capacity for long term fruitfulness declines. As does the expectations and legal accountability in some arenas.

Children under a certain age are exempted from certain responsibilities

Numbers 1:2-3 (ESV)

“Take a census of all the congregation of the people of Israel, by clans, by fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male, head by head. From twenty years old and upward, all in Israel who are able to go to war, you and Aaron shall list them, company by company.”

Numbers 14:29

“your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward,”

Children under a certain age are exempted from certain responsibilities

Deuteronomy 1:34-39

“And the Lord heard your words and was angered, and he swore, ‘Not one of these men of this evil generation shall see the good land that I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh. He shall see it, and to him and to his children I will give the land on which he has trodden, because he has wholly followed the Lord! Even with me the Lord was angry on your account and said, ‘You also shall not go in there. Joshua the son of Nun, who stands before you, he shall enter. Encourage him, for he shall cause Israel to inherit it. And as for your little ones, who you said would become a prey, and your children, who today have no knowledge of good or evil, they shall go in there. And to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.”

Children are said to have a period where they cannot differentiate right from wrong

Isaiah 7:14-16

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted."

1 Corinthians 14:20

"Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.."

In the new covenant children are not held accountable for their parent's failures

Ezekiel 18:14-20 (also summarized in Jeremiah 31:29-34)

"Now suppose this man fathers a son who sees all the sins that his father has done; he sees, and does not do likewise...he shall not die for his father's iniquity; he shall surely live. As for his father, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother, and did what is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity." Yet you say, 'Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?' When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live...The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son..."

Children are said to be part of the makeup of the kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 19:13-14 (ESV)

"Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away."

Truth #4:

In Scripture God consistently treats children
as belonging to Him.

God considers children to belong to Him

Ezekiel 16:20-21 (ESV)

"And you took your sons and your daughters, whom you had borne to me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your whorings so small a matter that you slaughtered my children and delivered them up as an offering by fire to them?"

Babies in the womb are considered His and entrusted to parents

01

Psalm 127:3

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward."

02

Genesis 48:9

Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here..."

03

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

04

Psalm 139:13

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

Truth #5:

God sent Jesus to provide a way for God to
show mercy.



Dr. Milliard Erickson

“Until the first conscious or responsible moral action or decision by a person, there is no imputation of the Adamic sin, just as there is no imputation of Christ’s righteousness until there is a conscious acceptance of that work.”

How Shall They Be Saved, Page 178.

Saint Augustine of Hippo



Book 1, Chapter 6:

“Hear, O God. Alas, for man’s sin! So saith man, and Thou pitiest him; for Thou madest him, but sin in him Thou madest not. Who remindeth me of the sins of my infancy? for in Thy sight none is pure from sin, not even the infant whose life is but a day upon the earth.”

Book V, Chapter 9:

“I was going down to hell, carrying all the sins which I had committed, both against Thee, and myself, and others, many and grievous, over and above that bond of original sin, whereby we all die in Adam.”

Original Sin: Spectrum of Thought

Pelagianism



RESULTS

Only a
Bad Example

Open Theism



RESULTS

Bad Example
Natural Consequences
Sinful Nature/Propensity

Arminianism



RESULTS

Bad Example
Natural Consequences
Sinful Nature/Propensity
Adamic Guilt 50/50

Moderate



RESULTS

Bad Example
Natural Consequences
Sinful Nature/Propensity
Judicial Guilt

**Five Point
Calvinism**



RESULTS

Bad Example
Natural Consequences
Sinful Nature/Propensity
Judicial Guilt
Personal Guilt

Original Sin: Fate of Babies and Mentally Incapable

Pelagianism



Heaven

Why: They
are not guilty

Open Theism



Heaven

Why: They
are not guilty

Arminianism



Heaven

Why: They
are not guilty
or the blood
of Jesus
covers
Adamic guilt

Moderate



Heaven

Why: The blood
of Jesus covers
judicial guilt
and they have
no personal
guilt

**Five Point
Calvinism**



Most say Heaven

Why: They are
guilty in Adam,
but most believe
God does a
special mercy

Truth #5: God sent Jesus to provide a way for God to show mercy.

01

Christians are divided on whether Adam's sin transfers guilt to humanity (Romans 5:12-18)

02

Christians agree that Jesus blood provides a way for God to show mercy to those who have not personally and actively sinned.

03

The question is how the blood of Jesus can be applied to the baby...

Special Mercy for Babies in Calvinism



“The destiny of infants who die is determined irrespective of their choice by an unconditional decree of God, suspended for its execution on no act of their own. And their salvation is wrought by an unconditional application of the grace of Christ to their souls through the immediate and irresistible operation of the Holy Spirit prior to and apart from any action of their own proper wills. And if death in infancy does depend on God’s providence, it is assuredly God in His providence who selects this vast multitude to be made participants of His unconditional salvation.” - BB Warfield

BB Warfield (Quoted by John McArthur).

<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-242/the-salvation-of-babies-who-die-part-1>

Special Mercy for Babies in Calvinism



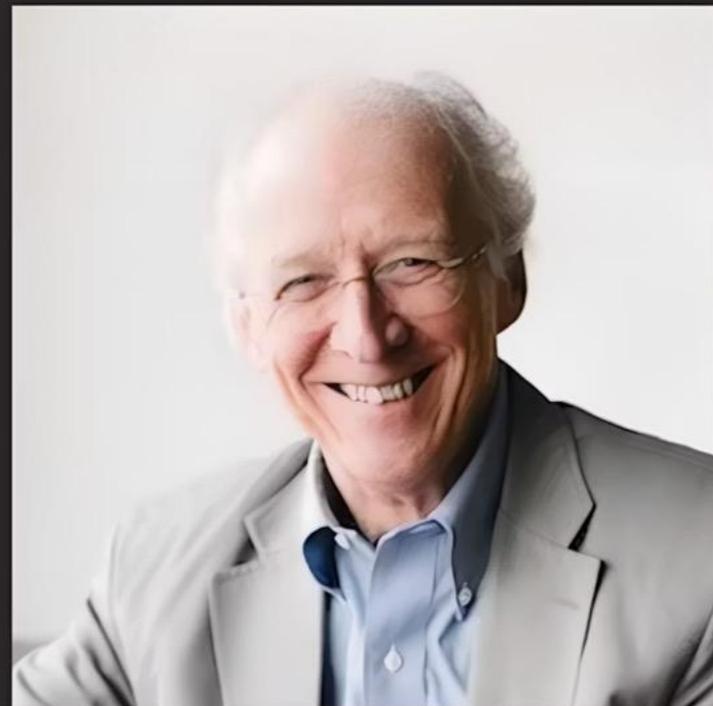
“We are not sinners because we sin; rather, we sin because we are sinners. That is, we sin because we are born with sinful natures. Though infants are not guilty of actual sin, they are tainted with original sin. That is why we insist that the salvation of infants depends not on their presumed innocence but on God’s grace. My particular church (note: R.C. Sproul is ordained in the PCA church) believes that the children of believers who die in infancy go to heaven by the special grace of God. What happens to the children of unbelievers is left to the realm of mystery. There may be a special provision of God’s grace for them as well. We can certainly hope for that.”

RC Sproul. *Where do babies go when they die?*

<https://lifecoach4god.life/2012/08/26/dr-r-c-sproul-on-where-do-babies-go-when-they-die/>

Special Mercy for Babies in Calvinism

“...infants who die. And here I just admit I am in the area of speculation. I don’t think the Bible says explicitly what I am about to say and so people should take it carefully. It seems to me that there are pointers in the Bible like Romans 1:19-23 and John 9:41 that God’s desire of public justice to be done and manifested will lead him not to bring infants who die in to everlasting judgment and condemnation, which raises the question: Well, how then will they come to faith in Jesus who alone is their Savior? And so I am leaving open the possibility that in some way that I do not know and don’t want to speculate too far about, God might be pleased to make that possible for them to come to faith after death. But the context for those who have mental frameworks whereby they can construe the evidences that are available to all human beings it says in Romans one, those people who resist God and suppress the truth that is available to all human beings who have the mental processes to grasp them, those people will pass into judgment for which there is no second chance.” - John Piper



John Piper.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/can-a-sinner-be-saved-after-death>

Truth #5:

God sent Jesus to provide a way for God to
show mercy.

So if God:

Loves your baby more than you do.

Cares about Justice more than you do.

Consistently treats children differently in Scripture.

Consistently treats children as His in Scripture.

Sent Jesus to provide a way for God to show mercy.

Then...

While the Bible never says it, what we know of God's Word gives solid grounds for believing that infants who die are safe in the arms of Jesus.



Will you let God hold your
broken hearts as he embraces
your baby.