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Subject: Re: Question for Christians

Posted by [Altzan](#) on Fri, 12 Jun 2009 02:27:29 GMT

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Dover wrote on Thu, 11 June 2009 14:23I'm not calling for proof. I'm calling for your reasoning behind your beliefs. I'm willing to settle for something short of reproducible scientific results, I'm just looking for something more than "Everyone else I know is doing it, I should too."

Well, that isn't what I said. That isn't my sole reason. And I can't really go into my reasons in further detail. What I wrote is what I wrote.

Dover wrote on Thu, 11 June 2009 14:23I think you misunderstand my motivations here. I'm not trying to convince you of anything--you're just text on a screen for me. I'm just trying to gain a little more insight into the mind of a Christian, and maybe share a little thought experiment with you in the process. You can dig your heels in and give the typical reaction when these conversations reach this point ("HA HA YOU CAN'T CONVERT ME!!1!"), or you can let your mind wander and actually consider the things being said. I promise God won't smite you for it.

If that really is the reason for your questions, then no hard feelings. My 'hostility' is more a defense against Spooky's equally hostile grip to atheism. And believe me - I am considering what you both are saying. I just don't agree with some of it - not because of 'digging in my heels', but because I just don't agree. Similar to some of my ideas and thoughts being rejected by you two. Makes sense.

Dover wrote on Thu, 11 June 2009 14:23And you're right, you shouldn't be worried about hell, even if you are, I suspect your God wouldn't approve anyway. If you're a good person for the sake of avoiding punishment, you're really not a good person after all. This kind of thinking is indicative of the lowest stages of Lawrence Kohlberg's theory in moral development. Even infants avoid punishment and pain by reflex, yet it's a sign of a mature and well-developed individual to do the right thing, regardless of punishment or reward involved (Something Kohlberg terms "Principled consciousness")

Speaking in terms of my belief in such a place, I am afraid of hell, because nobody is perfect and I am no exception. I've done things that would earn my ticket to hell had I not repented of them. and even though that fear is half the reason for my behaviour, it isn't the whole.

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