

Different Types Of God-Given Rewards And Punishments

God gives different types of rewards and punishments to humans:

Absolute Perfect Justice

The first type of God-given rewards and punishments is based on *His absolute perfect justice*. God only gives this type of reward to any human who perfectly obeys all of his love and other commands every moment of every day of his /her life. (see Leviticus 26:3-13, Deuteronomy 15:4-5, 28:1-14, Matthew 19:16-22 and Luke 10:25-28). Only Jesus Christ has deserved this type of reward (see Matthew 5:17, John 15:13 and Philippians 2:8). According to God's perfect justice, the punishments owing to anyone who disobeys even just one of His commands only once is physical death and eternal separation from His presence (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 and Matthew 25:41).

Because of His grace, mercy and eternal justice manifested in Jesus' death, God does not send believers in Him to hell to be eternally separated from Him. But He does allow their physical bodies to die. This physical death is a totally deserved punishment on every human because of Adam and Eve's Fall and because of each human's personal disobediences to God's will. The physical death of our bodies is a punishment based on God's eternal justice (see Romans 1:29-32, 5:12, 5:17, 6:23 and 1 Corinthians 15:22).

On the basis of His grace and mercy expressed through Jesus' death and resurrection, God will resurrect and totally renovate the physical bodies of all believers at Jesus' Second Coming (see 1 Corinthians 15:50-55). But God does not recreate the physical bodies of unbelievers after they die. Instead He resurrects their bodies in a fallen state so that their reunited spirit and body can be punished forever in hell (see Matthew 5:29-30, 10:28 and Acts 24:15). This is a totally deserved punishment based on God's perfect justice.

Loving discipline of God the Father to His children

The second type of God-given rewards and punishments is the *loving discipline of God the Father to His children*. Even though no human except Jesus Christ fully deserves God's rewards, God gives rewards to His children in order to train and encourage them to trust Him, love Him, love others and obey His other commandments. Because these rewards are not fully deserved, God gives them in the *measure, time and way He chooses*, and not necessarily when humans think these should be given.

Also, as a loving Father, God punishes His children in various ways here on Earth as part of His loving discipline and training of them (see 1 Corinthians 11:27-34, Hebrews 12:5-11 and Revelation 3:19). These punishments are *mild* compared with the full punishment all humans deserve according to God's perfect justice – external separation from Him in hell.

Punishments given to sinful unbelievers so they turn to Him

The third type of punishments is that given by a loving Creator towards all sinful unbelievers. He gives them these punishments with the aim of seeing unbelievers turning to Him and reforming their lives through Him. Isaiah 26:9-10 states: “...***For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness....***”

King Manasseh of Judah and Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon are two classic examples of wicked unbelievers whom God punished to lead them back to Him (see 2 Chronicles 33:1-15 and Daniel 4:1-37).

God rarely or never rewards unbelievers but instead because of His enormous love and kindness, He gives them many *free gifts* (see Matthew 5:45, Luke 6:35, Acts 14:17 and Romans 2:4).