

The Fate of Catholic Babies

Why Does God Hate Babies?

According to one estimate, there are around 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide, 800 million Protestants, and 512 million other Christian groups.

Many Catholics, as I understand it, adhere to the doctrine that babies who are not baptized in their church, for whatever reason, are condemned to eternal hell. It may be because the baby's parents aren't Catholic or even Christian of any flavor. It may be because Catholic parents just didn't get around to getting the baby baptized before its death. It may be because the baby died at childbirth, and there was no possibility of getting the infant baptized. In any case, it's an ironclad rule for some Catholics: No baptism, no heaven.

That seems awfully harsh and cruel, especially for an all-loving God. Catholics tell us that it's justified because of man's sinful nature, or something. But that doesn't explain it or justify it. Babies haven't committed any sin. Why should they be condemned for someone else's sins?

Protestants do not agree with Catholics on that particular issue. Protestants believe in guilty babies, while Catholics believe in guilty fetuses. But Protestants believe a baby is not condemned to hell unless and until he reaches an age at which he is able to understand at least the basics of Christianity. If he rejects Christ after that point, he is hellbound, but not until then.

Why is that significant? Because both groups cannot be right. One or both groups must be wrong about a very important matter. That means that at least 800 million Christians are wrong about this, and maybe at least 1.2 billion Christians are wrong about this. That's a lot of Christians, and that's a lot of wrong about a lot of babies.

But Protestants seem to be inconsistent. Millions of babies were drowned in the Noah Flood, which they believe in. So it's clear that the Christian God does indeed condemn defenseless babies to death, if not eternal hell. We also have this little gem in Psalm 137:9: **Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.** Obviously, the Christian God doesn't love babies as much as we've been led to believe.

That seems to support the Catholic doctrine. It proves that the Christian God is willing to make babies suffer the consequences for other people's sins. How can Christians possibly justify, condone, or support such a cruel doctrine? What kind of God would behave that way? How can any reasonable person subscribe to a religion whose God is so capricious and vindictive?

Yet, billions of Christians do just that. How can they possibly rationalize such a thing? And how could there be so much confusion and disagreement among Christians about something so important? Did God not inspire his representatives to write the Bible so that His followers would understand Him? Yet they clearly don't understand Him about so many key aspects of Christianity. Was God unable to write the Bible in such a way that Christians would clearly understand these matters and agree on them? They say that theirs is not the God of confusion, but that seems not to be the case. And this is just one of countless examples.

If so many Christians are so wrong about this issue, what else might they be wrong about? How can we have any confidence about any Christian doctrine?

What Catholics Don't Know

This is the official stance of the Catholic Church on the issue of whether unbaptized babies go to hell. It's written in typical Catholic babble, and what it says basically is that Catholics just don't know. Or they aren't willing to publicly say what they really believe, because it would make most Catholics most unhappy. (Keep in mind, however, that millions of Catholics still do believe that unbaptized babies are condemned to hell, and that their God is fully justified in doing so.)

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/cti_documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20070419_un-baptised-infants_en.html