

# **UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING**

Is God really.... God?

# INTERVIEW WITH AARON RODGERS

- Aaron Rodgers is the starting quarterback for the NFL's Green Bay Packers
- Interviewed by Danica Patrick in her podcast "Pretty Intense" posted December 25, 2019
- The interview eventually drifted into a discussion of God, religion, and spirituality



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- **Mr. Rodgers comes from a background of belief.**
- **Words are important — notice his claims:**
  - **God “wants to condemn.. wants to condemn”**
  - **Is this accurate?**
    - **God has a deep love for humanity - John 3.16; Romans 5.6-10**

**"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."**

-Romans 5.8-10

- + *God has demonstrated His love to man.***
- + *God demonstrated His love even when man was sinful.***
- + *God didn't walk away from man — man walked away from God. This explains "the wrath of God" and "enemies".***
  - ▶ *This also destroys the concept of inherited depravity.***

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    - **God does not want to condemn - John 3.17; 2 Peter 3.9**

**(“Can you identify when the skeptic and the questioner in you was really present?”)**

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**“Younglife on Monday welcomed everyone... Church on Sundays was more like, you dress a certain way and don’t bring that person and this person’s gonna get looked at strangely if they show up.”**

- **Could this be an accurate critique of some churches?**
- **Are we placing too great an emphasis on externals at the expense of internals?**
  - **God must be approached in a holy manner (Lev. 10)**
- **Consider the design of the church:**
  - **Ephesians 3.4-6; 2.13-16 — who is excluded?**
- **Consider the instructions to a local church (James 2).**

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- **The 144,000 number is interesting — Jehovah’s Witness**
- **Is there anything wrong with a crutch?**
- **Is Christianity a crutch?**
  - **Paul doesn’t seem to think so — Galatians 2.20. LIFE**
- **What about this prideful “us v. them” mentality?**
  - **It needs to be destroyed — James 2.8-9; Acts 8.4**

# **UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING:**

- 1) The critiques of Mr. Rodgers, and so many others, often come from personal interactions.**
- 2) Too often people reject a bastardized version of Christianity — we need to make sure we don't fall into this trap.**
- 3) We need to understand God's message so that we can accurately share that message with others (1 Peter 3. 15).**

**“What type of a loving... Being wants to condemn most of his beautiful creation to a fiery hell... even though there’s 7 billion people on the planet.**

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”

Matthew 23:37

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Revelation 3:20