

A God Of Love And Hate

Introduction: The other day I was watching a detective show on TV. One of the actors spoke of the wrath of God. He said that this was a feature of the God of the Old Testament, not the God of the New Testament. Well, the truth is that wrath is mentioned in both (*Hosea 5:10; Rom. 2:8*). The remark of this character in the show is typical of a lot of folks. There is a concept that the God of the Old Testament is somehow different than the God of the New Testament. This is false for He is the same God. He has a different people, law, law-giver, etc., but He is the same. ***“For I am the Lord, I do not change” (Mal. 3:6).***

There is another point that people misapply. They believe that the God of the New Testament is a God of love (and He is). However, the concept that people really have is that He is ***only*** a God of love. That is false.

I. **God Is Love.**

A. ***1 John 4:8.***

1. *“All His activity is loving activity. If He creates, He creates in love; if He rules, He rules in love; if He judges, He judges in love”* (Dodd, Johannine, p. 110).
2. Every action of Him is motivated of an “active goodwill” toward us.

B. God’s love is so great that He loves beyond the limits of man’s love.

1. Israel was loved by God (*Deut. 7:8; Jer. 31:3*).
2. This love has expanded to include all mankind (*Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5*).
3. The love of God existed for Israel even when Israel turned from Him. God’s love for mankind exists even though man has sinned. [more on this later]

II. **There Are Things That God Hates.**

A. This gives some folks no end of problem in dealing with the concept. Yet, if the Bible teaches it, we ought to be able to accept it.

1. ***Romans 9:13*** (quote taken from ***Mal. 1:2-3***).
 - a. Examining the original in Malachi, one learns that this is actually speaking of Israel (Jacob) and Edom (Esau).
 - b. This allows what seems like a difficult verse to be understood.

B. What are some things God hates?

1. Idolatry (***Deut. 12:31***).
2. A proud look (***Prov. 6:17***).
3. A lying tongue (***Prov. 6:17***).
4. Hands that shed innocent blood (***Prov. 6:17***).
5. A heart that devises wicked plans (***Prov. 6:18***).
6. Feet that are swift in running to evil (***Prov. 6:18***).
7. A false witness who speaks lies (***Prov. 6:19***).

8. And one who sows discord among brethren (*Prov. 6:19*).
 9. Divorce (*Mal. 2:16*).
- C. *Hebrews 1:8-9* explains as to how this hating by God should be understood (*see 1 Peter 3:12*).
1. It *is not* hatred of the individual.
 2. It *is* hatred of the sin the individual is involved in.
 3. This same concept is misunderstood by others on the part of Christians (viz., hate drinking, not drinker, etc.).
 4. People can understand this when their children are involved. They love their children, but are severely displeased with their activities and/or friends.

Conclusion: The most obvious conclusion is simply this—We need to avoid those things that we know God is said to hate. We also ought to do the things we know God loves. These are ways that are right and *cannot* be wrong.

(We will be studying some of the things that God hates in the weeks to come.)