

Does God Love Everyone?

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Psalms 5:5

A lot of well intentioned preachers and professed Christians are busy today spreading the story that God loves everybody. They use John 3:16 as a proof text of this message that they preach and witness and feel that interpreting that verse to mean that puts an end to all controversy. They take the word world to be interpreted as “all humans,” when in fact it has no such meaning. A thoughtful bible student will know that this Greek word “kosmos” is a word with broad and varied meaning. The basic or fundamental meaning for this word kosmos is decoration or adornment. Is it possible then that the Holy Spirit was talking about how He so loved his decorations, or what adorned Him. This makes complete sense, and will make even more sense when we examine other scriptures on the matter of God’s love and hate. And if we examine what adorns God more closely, we must come to realize that it must be those things that give Him glory. Those must be things that are a cohesive part of His unified kingdom. This description fits the saved of God ideally. They are the jewels in the crown of Christ. The things of God’s unified kingdom glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The apostle tells us in 2 Thess. 1:10 that Christ is coming again soon “to be glorified in His saints.” God has said of His people in Mal. 3:16-17 Then they that feared the LORD spoke often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 **And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels;** and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

But concerning those who hear us say that according to scripture, God does not love everyone; they are offended when we contradict that message and they often think people who oppose that story are cold, hardened, and without compassion. We have to ask “what reality do these people live in that makes them publish such a message?” We also must seriously ask what bible they are reading to come to this conclusion. More than that, we are driven to declare that they do the world the greatest injustice known by teaching this myth. The truth is, if I were a rebel against God, if I were an unbeliever, if I intended to go my own way, do my own things, fulfill all my fleshly desires in this life, the best news that I could possibly hear would be that God loves everybody. The reason is plain; if I am convinced that God loves everybody, I will easily conclude that He will put up with about anything from me and will forgive me for any and all offenses (regardless of how I treat Him or regardless of how I despise and disobey His precepts). I will look at other wicked humans, consider myself more righteous than many of them I measure, and will be driven to decide that if God loves them, He can’t help but love me. I will also be convinced that the God who loves me will not pour out His wrath upon me and will make a way for me to go to heaven when I die. I will have learned from my own parents and other family members that I am accepted, even with all my faults, and I am loved despite how bad I may be. Encouraged by this human lesson, I will assume the same thing about God and will never feel any need to think upon my own wicked human ways. In that state, I will die all nice

and content only to find myself in hell because I believed what the preacher and the false witness said about God loving everybody.

So, while some witnesses think they do humans a favor to present to them a God who loves everybody, they deny what God says about Himself and they present a false picture of God. While I readily admit that God is love, I must also offer a clear profile of God and declare that He is a God of anger, a God of judgment, a God of wrath, and a God who hates some things. Because God hates iniquity with a pure and righteous hatred, He also hates the practitioner of iniquity. Those who pursue sin as a career...which is the case of every sinner who opposes God and rebels against His message; who lives in God's world and steals God's resources, breathes His air, drinks His water, eats His food, and all the time hates God himself; these God hates.

Most of us who preach the gospel are really uncomfortable with preaching about the attributes of God which are all about wrath and indignation. One reason for that is every sensible creature should be uncomfortable thinking about, and speaking about the wrath and indignation of God. No man alive has even a mild taste of the outpouring of God's anger and judgement against evil, but we know from the Word that it is terrible. We read about the plagues of Egypt, the mass killing of the Israelites in the wilderness, the sudden dropping dead of Ananias and Sapphira, the awful picture of God's wrath at Armageddon in Revelation, and much more. And we are made to feel the utter power of an angry God. These events are about God measuring out wrath without mercy; a wrath that consumes the creature in a moment; the wrath that vents itself upon that which is hated.

There may be another thing that can sometimes happen in people's minds besides the idea I earlier mentioned about how some people think that a loving God would never call them to judgment for their wickedness. In this different way of thinking about God, when they think about His wrath and anger against a backdrop of teaching where they are told that God loves everyone. they may imagine that God is an unpredictable, moody Creator who kills those he loves at a whim, or when He gets mad at them. If people are persuaded that He loves everyone, then they will be led to believe that He who sets the example in the universe teaches His creatures that it is just fine to love someone and then kill them in a blaze of anger. This is another misconception of God that is provoked in the unbelieving world by false witnesses. And this legacy is what we have to deal with when we witness to men. I would rather men know right up front that while God is indeed love, He also hates some things, and rebellion against Him by His creatures will soon reveal what it is He hates.

With all this said, we want to look this morning at three things about God not loving everyone:

- I. Instances in which God plainly declares the nature of His hatred, and why He does not love everyone
- II. How people may certify that they are not hated of God
- III. When God loves someone, He ensures their eternal well-being.

I. Instances in which God plainly declares the nature of His hatred and why He does not love everyone

- Psalm 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.
 - > The operative phrase here is “workers of iniquity.”
 - > Humans who make a career of doing works that come to nothing; works that are composed of nothingness are hated of God. This word is a variation of the root word translated iniquity elsewhere in the O.T., but this particular form of the word is about exerting oneself in that which comes to nothing.
 - > Energy is expended in useless pursuit
 - > The lifestyle of such people follows vanity and avoids that which is spiritually constructive
- The message here about who God hates: all who expend energy in pursuits that have their life and death in the mortal things of man (i.e. Having a life that is made up of worldly pursuits).
- Psalm 11:5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
 - > God hates the morally wrong and actively bad person (wicked)
 - > God hates the person who loves violence (this also means someone who habitually mistreats others).
- Pro 6:16 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:
Pro 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
Pro 6:18 A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
Pro 6:19 **A false witness *that speaketh lies*, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**
 - > Until the 19th verse, the things God lists as hating are all “things.” But in v. 19, they are people.
 - > He hates people who testify lies
 - > He hates people who sow discord among brothers; whether family, society, or religious
- Hos 9:15 All their wickedness *is* in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes *are* revolvers
 - > Gilgal was a place in the ten tribes, where the covenant of circumcision was renewed in Joshua's time; the first passover was kept in the land of Canaan, and the people of Israel ate the firstfruits of the land; where the tabernacle was for a while, and sacrifices were offered up to the Lord
 - This word Gilgal represents a word picture of spiritual reprobation. Reprobation might be said to begin what appears to be a spiritual journey, but turning from it and rejecting all that it was supposed to mean.
- Mal 1:3 And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

- > There is no identifying feature in this verse for why God hated Esau. But, we know that in Genesis 27:41, this is said about Esau regarding his attitude toward Jacob the promised seed: “And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.”
- > From this we can see the spirit of Esau, **but still God does not point to this as the reason He hated Him**. In fact, we know that scripture explains God’s hatred of Esau based on pure prerogative of an omnipotent God:
- > Rom 9:11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)
 Rom 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.
 Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

II. How people may certify that they are not hated of God

- John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
 John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

III. When God loves someone, He ensures their eternal well-being.

- Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
 Rom 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
 Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
 Rom 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
 Rom 8:39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.