

Learning The Hate of God

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Many people have a picture of God based on an imprecise understanding of Scriptures. Based on only a handful of passage out of context, they believe that they are safe from eternal condemnation. They might say that “since God is love, He loves us as we are”, or “since God is love, He would not send me to Hell”.

We know that it is true that God is love (1 John 4:8), but the mistake is in trying to define love in human terms. God is love, but love is NOT unconditional acceptance. God is love, but love is NOT unjust, and will commit Himself to a fair judgment at the end of time. God is love, but love can hate. Indeed, many believe that hate is the opposite of love, and that therefore God cannot hate. But this is false thinking that leads to false conclusions.

God says: *There are six things which Jehovah hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes (Proverbs 8:13), a lying tongue (Psalm 5:6), and hands that shed innocent blood (Psalm 5:6), a heart that devises wicked plans (Hosea 9:15), feet that run rapidly to evil (Psalm 5:5), a false witness who utters lies (Zechariah 8:17), and one who spreads strife among brothers (Revelation 2:6) - Proverb 6:16-19.* In this passage God gives a list of those things that He hates. In parenthesis, we have inserted alternative passages that declare for each of these characteristics another time God singles these things out. Note that it is not just the sin that He hates, but the one who commits it as well. Nowhere in the Bible does it say “*God hates the sin but loves the sinner*”. Instead, the Bible reveals that God is an enemy of the sinner too.

Of course, we can assume that God hates all sin. Why would these seven be singled out? Part of it is that in the context, the writer wants a son or daughter to avoid certain conduct prevalent among younger people. However, we might also consider that these are the very precise characteristics that Scriptures indicate that were present in those who conspired and put Jesus to death.

Matthew 27:18.....haughty eyes
Luke 23:2.....a lying tongue
Matthew 27:4.....hands that shed innocent blood
Matthew 26:4.....a heart that devises wicked plans
John 13:27.....feet that run rapidly to evil
Matthew 26:50.....a false witness who utters lies
Mark 15:11...one who spreads strife among brothers

Being Christians means we must “hate” as well. Sometimes by putting God ahead of all other things we love less (**hate**) all others (Luke 14:26 with Matthew 10:37). We also must despise conduct that is against God (Psalm 139:21-22), and to a degree reject (**hate**) those who engage in them. Finally, we are enemies of the world, and if we attempt to have friendship with the world, we are enemies with God. We must not be friends (**hate**) with the world (James 4:4-6).

We know that God has hate, as well as love. We desire to have His love, not His hate, and this is completely up to us and our behavior. We must hate (reject) evil works and deeds, as well as those who engage in them. We must hate (love less) all other things. We must hate (have no friendship with) the world.