



## Does God Really Love the Sinner? Part One

The well-used statement that "God loves the sinner but hates the sin" is frequently used in the American evangelical church; but if you search the Scriptures, you will not find it! Romans 9:13—"Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated". Psalm 11:5,7-The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face." Psalm 5:4-5—"For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all evil doers." These Scriptures show God has a hatred for evil doers - in other words, sinners! How many are included in the word "all" in Psalm 5:4-5? This is going to be a shock to many in the evangelical churches in America today!

*Before reading, please pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you God's Truth from the Scriptures.* In the modern western church, we have lost our fear of God and the hatred of sin. This has resulted in a watered-down gospel and a different Jesus; and the tragic result is the formation of many non-regenerated souls who think they are saved! This has come about by some of our modern western church teachings where many leaders and evangelists fear they will scare people away by preaching and teaching the Biblical Truth about SIN and SINNERS. This has led people to think lightly about sin such as: "I'm not that bad! God loves me; He will overlook my sin"; or even worse, some even think it is okay to sin! Many see God as a benevolent Grandfather who overlooks sin and will give them everything they want like a Divine vending machine! NO! Sin is so grievous to God that He sent His Son to the Cross to take upon Himself God's WRATH and DEATH Sentence issued upon the sinner and his sin. God's WRATH and DEATH Sentence remains upon all sinners who are not truly born again, regenerated souls -- covered in the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus! But, for those who have believed on the Son of God and are born again, Jesus died in their place and bore the wrath of God for their sin.

Here are a just a few References to God's wrath: Eph 2:1-3-"And you were dead in your trespasses and sins which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and mind and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind". John 3:35-36-"the Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him". Colossians 3:5-6-"Put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which are idolatry. On the account of these God's wrath is coming." Revelation 6:15-17-"Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath has come and who can stand?'"

The stark reality is that *we cannot understand the gift and mercy of God in Christ Jesus* until we comprehend the true reality of our relation to God *without Christ!* God hates sin AND the sinner! BUT God's hatred IS NOT like fallen man's hatred. God's hatred is a righteous hatred in which He cannot even look upon sin (HAB 1:13a). Man's hatred is a wicked self-centered hatred from a wicked heart for his own personal selfish way and gain. God hates the sinner and his sin with a righteous hatred; and the Scripture says His wrath is upon all those who sin. God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts (ISH 55:8) and He hates sin with a righteous hatred. God is nothing like man's self-centered bigotries and hatred. God is Love! God is Holy! God is Righteous and Just! Being Holy, Righteous and Just, God hates sin and sinners. In fact, because it would be absolutely contrary to His Divine Holy, Righteous and Just nature, God cannot even look upon sin -- just as He could not look upon His Son on the Cross when He took our sin on Himself. BUT because of His Love attribute, God has Mercy and Compassion on sinners; and because of Mercy, He offers sinful man the gift of salvation! Mercy and Grace kissed on the cross! Where the Scripture (Matthew 5:45) says, God pours rain on the just and unjust, it is because of His Mercy -- not His Love. He does this for everyone! God can have Mercy on sinners while hating them in their sin. The false teaching of Universalism was birthed in the thought that God loves everyone and that everyone is redeemed. Universalism is not true and nowhere in Scripture! So, God hates sinners BUT He also has Mercy on them and offers salvation to them out of compassion. The Scripture states in Rom 9:15-"God will have mercy on who He will have mercy and compassion on who He will have compassion" (note love is not used in this Scripture). Micah 7:18-19-"Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea". So, we cannot see God's righteous hatred through the eyes of man (fallen humanity) or through man's definitions and meanings; but we can see through the eyes of God in His Scriptures!

God will send sinners, not sin, to the Lake of Fire- Rev 20:15-"Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire." God destroyed sinners, not sin, in the flood- Gen 6:17-"I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish". Note: God did not separate the two -- sin from sinner. The only way and place this separation can transpire is in a soul's regeneration -- being born again -- *and then the sin is removed.*

Almost everyone uses John 3:16 to teach that "God loves the sinner but hates the sin"; but John 3:16 does not say that God loves sinners, it says He loves the world. What world does God love? The world that He loves is the world He originally created as GOOD -- not the present fallen world. In the book of Genesis Chapters 1 and 2, God said what He created was good and that man was created in God's image. Genesis 3 talks about the fall of man in sin and that all creation fell with him. What God had created as good was now cursed because of man's sin. Therefore, both man and the creation (i.e. the fallen world) was no longer like what had been originally created by God and they were no longer GOOD. Both man and creation are waiting for God's redemption (Rom 8:19-23)! God even says He is sorry that He created man and the earth! Genesis 6:5-8-"The Lord saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. AND THE LORD WAS SORRY HE MADE MAN on the earth and it grieved Him to His heart. So, the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I made them.' But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." Noah was the only righteous man on the earth. The Lord loved Noah but hated the sinners. His wrath and death remained upon them and ALL were destroyed.

You may be thinking, "Well that is just Old Testament! God is not like that now!" Heb 13:8-"Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever". God has not changed. Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:37-39 that His return will be as in the days of Noah. These verses are about us and our generation and how God's wrath is on the sinner and how God is going to bring to destruction! So, God does not love this world but rather He loves the original world He created and what He called good. He hates the sin infested fallen world and the sinner in it, and He is going to destroy the sinners and the fallen world by fire! All the Scriptures that I have listed that show God hates the sinner are in the Bible and are as valid as John 3:16! These Scriptures have shown that God is not IN LOVE with our present world but is going to judge it by fire. 2 Peter 3:7-"By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly".