



Does God Really Love the Sinner? Part Two

1 John 2:15—"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them". It is clear from 1 John 2:15 that God does not love the fallen world and that anyone who does, does not belong to the Father! Hence, as discussed in Part I, we can see that John 3:16 is stating that "God so loved the world (the world that He originally created as good) that He sent His only begotten Son [Jesus], so who should ever believe in Jesus would not perish but have everlasting life" (the eternal life God had intended for man in the Garden with the "Tree of Life").

Jesus came to redeem that which was lost in the fall and return it to God's good and perfect image to the glory of His Name! So, to use John 3:16 to prove that God loves sinners is not sound exegesis. God planned redemption before the foundation of the world, knowing that man and the world would fall in sin. (GEN1:3,10,12,18,25,31). *Genesis 3:15 talks of a future event to redeem man, and WE WILL LOOK AT THAT GOOD NEWS LATER IN THIS MESSAGE (Our Hope in Christ).*

Are there really Scriptures that say God hates sinners? The answer is yes! Here are some of them: Psalm 5:5—"The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity". Psalm 11:5—"The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates". Jeremiah 12:8—"My inheritance has become to Me like a lion in the forest; she has roared (sinned) against Me; therefore I have come to hate her". Hosea 9:15—"All their evil is at Gilgal; indeed I came to hate them there, because of the wickedness of their deeds". Malachi 1:3—"I hated Esau and destroyed his mountains". Romans 9:13—"Jacob I have loved and Esau I have hated". These Scriptures are clear -- God hates sinners. **But** we must remember this is God's *righteous* hatred of sin and the sinner. God's hate cannot be compared to man's hate. God cannot even look upon sin (HAB 1:13a). The statement that "God hates sin but loves the sinner" is just not Scripturally sound!

I believe that this is a Biblically sound statement: "God hates sin and the sinner; but by His mercy, compassion and grace in Christ Jesus, God truly loves the regenerated (righteous) Born Again sinner". Romans 9:13 says: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated". God loved Jacob who He made righteous and named him Israel; God hated Esau because he rejected his birth right. Esau's birth right was the promise of Christ! He sold Christ for a bowl of stew! No one is righteous unless God makes them righteous. God makes sinners righteous by His grace, mercy and compassion. Hallelujah! God loves the righteous with an everlasting love; but He hates the sinner lost in their sin. Psalm 11:5, 7 says: "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". Again, the Scripture gives a comparison of what God loves and what He hates. It states He hates the wicked and loves the righteous. We must be careful not to cheapen God's mercy and grace by cheapening what sin is and what God thinks of sin and those who are sinners! We must realize who we are in God's eyes without Christ before we can realize, by the Holy Spirit, that we desperately need Christ's salvation. *Our only Hope is in Jesus Christ!*

So, how do I go from being a sinner hated by God and under His wrath to the place where God bestows His love on me, and removes His wrath from me? No one becomes righteous unless God makes them righteous! I have spent much time here talking about sin and sinners and God's hatred of both and His wrath upon them. If I stop here, I leave you, the reader, in great despair! *God in His mercy has a gift for us!* He wants to make us righteous; and there is only one-way sin can be removed and righteousness imparted to us - and that is by God's Grace and Mercy in and through the Gospel of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the 1700 and 1800's, revivalists had what were called "inquiry or birthing rooms" where individuals upon hearing the Spirit-filled preaching of the true Gospel of God (ROM 1:9,16-17) and then being drawn to Christ by the Holy Spirit, would go into these rooms and "labor" in prayer and the Word as they were convicted by the Holy Spirit of (1) their own, personal wickedness and sin; of (2) God's righteousness; of (3) God's wrath upon them; and of (4) the coming judgment. In this birthing process, the individual is confronted by the Holy Spirit with Christ's death on the cross for their sin and His triumphant resurrection from the dead which was all required by God so that He could establish a love relationship with man -- which God desires! *God desires a love relationship with man, and a love relationship with God can only be obtained through Jesus Christ!*

By His great mercy and grace, God Himself saves sinners. Salvation is not controlled by a human act of man (John 1:12-13). Salvation is a supernatural encounter with the living Christ wherein God the Father draws the sinner; the Holy Spirit convicts of sin (man's sin), righteousness (God's Righteousness) and the judgment to come (God's righteous judgment on sin); and then by God's grace the sinner turns to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith and cries out for Him to have mercy and save; and by God's grace and in His perfect timing, He redeems us and regenerates!- see EZK 36:26-27-"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." Jesus said in John 3:3-"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again". We become new creations born again to walk in newness of life - and we receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If we have a REAL saving encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ, we will never be the same from that day forward. REV 21:5-"Behold, I [Christ] am making all things new".

In the early 1900's - "decisional evangelism" by simply walking an aisle, raising a hand, signing a card, or praying a prayer became increasingly popular - particularly increasing to new heights during the ministry of evangelist Billy Sunday. No more were there "birthing rooms" used where man under the conviction of the Holy Spirit would see his sinful state, the righteousness of God, and the coming judgment. It became unpopular to wait on God's timing where the individual called on the Lord and his eyes were opened to Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life -- and by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit he would believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be gloriously saved--forgiven--declared righteous by holy God--reconciled to God--and brought into a living, loving relationship with Him. The lack of such true conviction and decisional evangelism has, unfortunately, led to many still births - hence, a real born-from-above experience did not happen -- thus many who profess to be saved have never truly been born from above! Mr. Richard Owen Roberts refers to these as twice dead souls [JUDE 1:12]! Many, many churches still use the decisional evangelism method!

Another error used in modern evangelism is salvation preached as a destination. Heaven truly is a wonderful benefit, but salvation is not a destination it is a Person: the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus did not say He was giving us heaven, He said he was giving us eternal life. John 3:15-"And whosoever believes on Him shall have eternal life." What is eternal life? John 17:3-JESUS prayed: "Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent." This Scripture clearly defines eternal life as knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. **Eternal Life is the gift of entering into a now and forever love relationship with the one and only Triune God!** Did you see that? **When God saves a sinner, He gives them the gift of entering into a LOVE RELATIONSHIP with HIMSELF.** What a great and marvelous gift! The sinner now becomes "beloved of God" (ROM 1:7)! That truly is AMAZING GRACE!

So, Where do you stand? Are you a sinner under the wrath and judgment of God? Or, have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and entered into a living, loving eternal relationship with the God of heaven? BEHOLD! The Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world! Believe on Him and you shall be saved!



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