

This lesson touches on an absolute truth that angers the Postmodern Period devotees. Culture ignores the fact that God's love can be turned into wrathful anger. It is maintained that the environment is to blame for the problems. Mankind is excused and enabled to live a life that is worthless because "it is not his fault"! To suggest that God is angry at such a victim of the environment is cruel, heartless and unloving. There are gasps at those saying this "victim" is not "saved."

A number of phrases are invented to excuse the "victim's" accountability to God. The "god" of postmodernism ignores the sinner's actions. But some semblance of ire must be evident. Thus a cliché mitigating the anger of God toward individuals has surfaced—"God hates the sin but loves the sinner"?

THIS CLICHÉ EXAMINED

Two ways in which it could be taken:

- ✓ As a comment about the wrath of God. God is displeased with "the sin" but not against the sinner.
- ✓ To admit it as incorrect. "If God hates the sin, what He hates is...myself, as that self now exists."

John 8:3-10 is used by the Postmodernists to support their all love and no condemning position. But...

- ✓ The narrative shows that if the sinner stops the sin then God is pleased but if the sinner does not stop sinning God's command is disobeyed.
- ✓ There is no middle ground where God loves the sinner as she continues sinning with only a tacit rebuke.

Three texts give the biblical insight about God's attitude toward sin and the sinner:

- ✓ *Proverbs 6:16-19*—Specific focus on the sinner.
- ✓ *Isaiah 59:1-3*—God is upset with the sin but the sinner is also the object of divine wrath.
- ✓ *Revelation 21:8*—The sinner and his sin *both* anger God.

So, God hates the sin *and* God hates the sinner. Those maintaining that the sinner is the object of God's anger will be characterized as legalistic and unloving.

One following God's counsel (Ephesians 5:3-7) refuses to tacitly approve the sinner's choices and actions (Romans 1:28-32).

ASSOCIATION WITH SINNERS

Three texts govern association with the sinner:

- ✓ Association identifies you as a partner, participant, encourager, and supporter of the sinner's choices. (Romans 1:28-32; Ephesians 5:7-11).

- ✓ Association is possible only if a confrontation and exposure is made (Jeremiah 26:2).
- ✓ Association with sinners cannot be excused on the basis of relationship. You cannot say, "God's rules apply differently to my 'family'" (Mark 3:31-35). The Lord refused a "special exception."

Those who make special exceptions for associating with blasphemers are addressed by Christ (Matthew 10:32-39).

The Postmodern Period urges us to condemn no one; tolerate everyone; and ignore every sinful act!

It is *not* biblical truth that God hates the sin but loves the sinner. This pithy saying was coined by Gandhi, not God, nor Jesus, nor the Bible!

God loves sinners in the sense that He seeks their salvation in Christ. *BUT* His attitude toward sinners as long as they remain unrepentant is antagonism and wrath. The anger of God is mitigated by the sinner's response to God.

- ✓ *If* the sinner continues in his sinful choices then he remains the object of God's anger. God's love has provided a means by which the sinner can change his relationship.
- ✓ *If* the sinner repents and forsakes sin he will escape God's anger because he has changed his situation (Ephesians 5:6-8).
- ✓ *If* the sinner continues his evil practices contrary to God's commands, even if he claims to call upon God, he will not escape being the object of God's anger because he refuses to change his situation.

A new slogan might be "*God hates the sin and is angry with the sinner.*" Therefore it is urgent for the sinner to do whatever is necessary to escape God's anger. He must STOP sinning! The Bible teaches the sin ignites the divine wrath against the sinner (Romans 2:8, 9).

THE PEOPLE IGNITING GOD'S WRATH

The Bible teaches that God's anger is directed toward people. Of course God is angry at the action but His anger is pointed towards the person.

- ✓ *God hates one who refuses to submit to the divine commands.* These are described by these terms: fool; hypocrite; self-righteous; and those blind to personal sins Psalm 14; Hebrews 6:8; James 1:26).
- ✓ *God hates those speaking "empty words."* Some talk religious talk but their words have no substance—they are "empty" (Ephesians 5:6). This refers to delusional speech that cheats God's commands! (Jude 10-13).
- ✓ *God hates those practicing Sin (1 John 3:8).* The verb is a continuous present tense. The point is that the one involved is continuing to do the action. The action described is continual and present. This verse is blunt—God hates those who purposely make a habit of sin. Today, NO ONE is identified as a child of the Devil even if every choice of every day is contrary to what is taught in the Bible! "Do they consider whom they serve, and against whom they fight?"

ABSOLUTE TAKE AWAYS FROM THIS STUDY

The Bible is clear—one cannot treat God indifferently; one cannot ignore God's commands; one cannot offer God a counterfeit devotion. God expects the full surrender, full loyalty and full consecration. There are people who hate God. Their hatred is demonstrated in their choices and lifestyles. The Bible seeks to warn mankind about this catastrophic behavior (Psalm 81:15; Romans 1:28-32).

In summary this list offers a snapshot of those who ignite God's holy wrath and these people will be severely punished "for ever and ever" because they refused to submit and obey God's will. They were convinced that they had a better way than God's way! They thought "God hates the sin but loves the sinner" and so continue practicing (the action of living in) sin!

First, there is no question that Satan has convinced many to despise and show contempt to God.

Second, there is no question that God hates those who despise Him.

Third, those hated by God will never find satisfaction and personal content here or hereafter—they will be eternally damned!

Fourth, there is a wonderful grace extended for all to submit and obey and become identified with "those who have faith to the preserving of the soul" (Hebrews 10:39). Let us make sure we are a part of this group!

Those who practice sin...live unrighteously and forfeit their value—"worthless" (1 Kings 21:20).

Those who practice sin...ignore God—"trample under foot the Son of God" (Hebrews 10:26-31).

- *God hates those who shirk back—Hebrews 10:35-39.* This group is composed of those who use stealth in their apostasy. The term communicate the idea of "shrinking back in timidity or fear; to cower; to have the boldness shrink away; to conceal, shun or withdraw (Vine). The idea being communicated is that there are those who do not openly rebel and show contempt for God's commands. These simply remain silent and "shrink away" from confrontation (2 Timothy 1:7).

DO YOU REALLY...

Do you really want to be identified with the group that is described as ungodly blasphemers?

Do you really want to shrink back in silence and be the cause for God's truth not being defended?

Do you really want to become the object of God's anger?