

INTRODUCTION

1. Loving enemies is strategy for victory - defeat of enemy. Message of salvation in view of the reality of God's wrath. - Rm 5:9. Balance needed.
2. Love-hate rlnshp w/ enemies: love - aware of wrath [hatred] - Rm 12:19b.

1st: God is Hated

1. Exo 20:3-6 obedience to 1st & 2nd = *love*; disobedience = *hate*
 - i. YHWH is personal deity - loved or hated as seen in what a man worships: that to which he devotes his life: worship & serve.
 - ii. Love = sum of 1st Table [Dt 6:5].
 - a. YHWH defines love in terms of covenantal fidelity - engages totality of humanity - *faith working thru love* [Gal 5:6].
 - b. People who are not in covenant w/ YHWH as God, do not love Him: they hate Him.
2. Rm 1:16-19 gospel & wrath revealed [v17-18]: idolatry v25: hate God.
 - i. Wrath: judicial abandonment - *gave them over* [v24, v26, v28].
 - ii. Rm 1:28-2:6 man outside covenant w/ God hate Him & under wrath
 - a. *haters of God* - also "God-forsaken"
 - b. Men are not passive in their unbelief & rebellion
3. Men *hate God* - prefer idols: self, \$, pleasure [2T 3:1-5]. A man says, "I don't hate God, I'm just not interested." God says, "You hate Me."

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2nd: God Hates

1. God hates [judges as evil] apostasy [Isa 1:14; Am 5:21]; lies [Zech 8:17]; *robbery* [Isa 61:8]; divorce [Mal 2:16]; *one who loves violence* [Ps 11:5].
2. Idolatry is *abomination* - strong repulsion. Lev 18 [Rm 1] catalogs sins of Canaanites: expunged from land - Israel warned.
3. The essence of God's hatred is His holiness & justice: anthropopathism
 - i. Our hatred: conscience. God's hatred: holiness. In view of evil, "response" of wrath - retributive justice: perfect, constant, infinite.
 - ii. When men sin, God reveals wrath. Today is day of salvation - lake of fire is eternal, unmitigated wrath.
4. Jesus' Anger - sin & effects of Fall: Phar's hardness of heart [Mk 3:5]; life-threatening wind [Mk 4:39] & demons [Mk 3:11-12]; zeal for Father's house [Jn 2:17].
 - i. Vocab of Jesus' anger: irritation [Mk 10:14]; grief [Mk 3:5] - most complex in Jn 11 - Laz's grave
 - a. v33,38 *deeply moved & troubled* - "A storm of wrath seemed to sweep over Him" John Hutchison (Warfield)
 - b. Yet v35 *Jesus wept* seen as *love* [v36].
 - ii. Called Herod *fox* (Lk 13:32); unreceptive *swine* (Mt 7:6); denounced Phars - Mt 23; *ravening wolves* (Mt 7:15); *serpents & brood of vipers* (Mt 12:34); *children of the Devil* (Jn 8:44)
5. While ministering w/ compassion, Jesus confronted enemy & triumphed [= joy]. Climate was often tense & intense: He never lost a fight.
6. He is still zealous for Father's house - Rev 2:6 Eph hates as He hates

7. It is inconceivable to engage in warfare & not experience a warrior's rage.
 - i. Tactic is lamb-like sac'al love - yet righteous hatred. We fight to win.
 - ii. Jn 18:36; Eph 6:11-12
 - iii. We are engaged in "spiritual warfare". How can we have righteous indignation required for battle while loving enemies?

Applic #1: Think in Covenantal Categories

1. Love & hate primarily concern the morality of Ist & IInd commandments.
 - i. Yes, we experience love & hate w/ intense emotional energy &, analogously, Scripture presents God's love & hate emotively.
 - ii. We are like God, but God is not like us. We react - God reveals.
2. Love = believing Lord in covenantal relationship of worship & life of service. Hate = unbelief, strangers to cov, w/o God in world [Eph 2:12].
 - i. As "image of God" men worship - who? what? Creature?
 - Oii. Love - they are deceived - yet responsible for their unbelief.

Applic #2: Learn to Love and Hate as What Jesus Loves and Hates

1. Follow Jesus in His earthly ministry - Jesus hated sin & death & Satan but loved truth, obedience, service - people: sinlessly: His Father above all.
2. Commune w/ Jesus as He is exalted on throne in glory. Hate Nicolaitans [heresy] - have transcendent, eternal perspective - call to repentance.
3. Our love/hate is elevated to concerns for Jesus' name [IIIrd]: 1st Table. Love Lord - grow in wisdom - love enemies - fight to win & defeat every adversary opposed to the name & rights of King Jesus.