

## God's Love and God's Wrath

They are not Opposites

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**God's love is very great. He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice on the Cross, for our sins, and failures to keep His LAW OF LOVE, Matthew 22:37-40.**

(Which is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour as our self.)

**So that whosoever repents of their sins,** (confesses them, turns from them, and surrenders to Jesus Christ as Lord), **and believes in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord,** shall not perish, but shall receive everlasting life in the Kingdom of God.

Mark 1:15, John 3:16, 1Peter 2:24, 1Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13, 14, Hebrews 9:12, 28, Revelation 1:5.

**God's love is very great. He is seeking the highest good of all His creation.**

The birds do not sow, nor reap, nor do they store in barns, but our heavenly Father feeds them. Matthew 6:26, Luke 12:24.

God makes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and He sends the rain on the just and the unjust. Matthew 5:45.

God gives life and breath to all things. Acts 17:25. God does good to all people, giving us rain and fruitful seasons. Acts 14:17.

**God's love is very great. He has no pleasure at all that the wicked should die.**

God's desire is that the wicked man should turn from his evil ways and live. Ezekiel 18:23, 32, Ezekiel 33:11.

But God has given to man freewill. God will not force man to obey His commandments.

**God's love is very great. He loves His enemies.**

While we were God's enemies He reconciled us to Himself by the death of His Son. Romans 5:8, 10, 1Peter 2:24, 1Peter 3:18.

**God's love is very great. He has created us.** He sustains us. He provides for us. He protects us. He delivers us.

He has given to all people ample evidence of His Person, His goodness, His power and His love, through creation, and conscience, through the stars, the planets and the galaxies of the universe. Psalm 19:1-4, Psalm 145:10-12, Romans 1:19, 20, Romans 2:11-16.

**God's love is very great. He has given to us His laws and commands so that we can know what He expects of us;** how we can please Him and live forever in His family.

In the **Old Testament** there are the Ten Commandments, which tell us how to please God and love other people. Exodus 20:1-17.

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, give us other commands of God that are not covered in the Ten Commandments.

In the **New Testament**, Jesus teaches us how to keep the Commandments of God from our heart and not just outwardly.

One such teaching is in Matthew chapters: 5, 6, 7, which is called, "The Sermon on the Mount".

It is important to remember that **we cannot be saved by our own ability and works** of keeping the Commandments of God.

By the works of the law, no one shall be justified in God's sight. Romans 3:20, Romans 3:21-28. Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5-7.

**We are saved through repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ's work on the Cross and His resurrection.** Acts 2:36-39, Acts 4:10-12, Acts 16:31, Romans 10:6-10.

**When we believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, He Baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and fire,** Matthew 3:11, John 4:10, 14, John 7:37-39, Luke 11:13. **and this gives us the ability and power to believe God's Word, to obey His good works.**

**God's wrath, His anger,** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness and unrighteousness of people, who suppress the truth in their wickedness. Romans 1:18-23.

If God was indifferent to the wickedness of evil people and just "turned a blind eye", or "let people off", He would be unjust.

But God is righteous, just, truthful, merciful, good, holy, pure, loving and kind, powerful, all wisdom, and authority.

**God's justice demands punishment for sin and wickedness and evil.**

Before God could forgive us our sins, the sinless Person, Jesus Christ, had to take our sins upon Himself, and suffer the wrath of God for us. So that when we repent and believe in the Redeemer, God can forgive us our sins, because the price has been paid.

1Peter 2:24, 1Peter 3:18, Romans 5:10, 1Corinthians 15:3.

**God appoints people to govern us and they have His authority to do so.** If we resist them, we resist the ordinance of God.

They are **the ministers of God** to us for good. But if we do evil, we need to fear them. They do not bear the sword of capital punishment in vain, because they are **the ministers of God** to **execute wrath** upon those who do evil. Romans 13:1, 2, 4,

1Peter 2:13,14.

Wrath is the response of love, in the face of wickedness and evil.

Indifference to wickedness and evil is the opposite of love.