

Adoring the God of Glory

November 12th, Class 9 – Adult Equipping Center
God's Jealousy and Wrath – Teaching Notes

Recap / Thank you!

- God is righteous / just – “always acts in accordance with what is right and is himself the final standard of what is right.” (Grudem)
- Begs a question that is foundational to what we are looking at today: what is the right response of a righteous/just God to unfaithfulness and sin?
- “God’s love always...there remain any unrepentant people.” (Frame, p. 467, DOG)

Foundation: God’s jealousy and wrath are necessary consequences of His other attributes (love, holiness, righteous/just).

- If God were not angered by sin and judgmental of sin, He would not be good or just.
 - If a judge were unwilling to punish, we’d think him unjust.
 - Ps. 7:11 – God is a righteous Judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.
 - If a person were indifferent to evil, we would think that they are evil.
 - “God cannot love goodness without hating evil.” (Frame, p. 463, DOG)
- God hates.
 - Prov. 6:16-19
 - [16] There are six things that the LORD hates,
seven that are an abomination to him:
 - [17] haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
and hands that shed innocent blood,
 - [18] a heart that devises wicked plans,
feet that make haste to run to evil,
 - [19] a false witness who breathes out lies,
and one who sows discord among brothers. (ESV)
 - 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 evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

- Psalm 11:1-7
- What is meant by God hates? It requires nuance like saying God loves.
 - Jacob I loved but Esau I hated. / Jesus tells us to “hate” our family (Lk. 14:26). Both of these passages clearly mean to prefer to, prioritize over.
 - “...we should be emotionally disgusted with wickedness. But one may hate the wicked in the sense of **opposing...their policies and plans, without feeling emotional disgust for them personally**...If love is a disposition to seek the good of someone else, and hate is opposition to the values and plans of someone, then it is certainly possible both to love and to hate the same person.” (Frame, 461, DOG)
- God is not hate, but He does hate. This isn’t an attribute of God in the same way that love is. Hate requires a wicked object or sinful creature.
- We are told to hate and not hate.
 - Hate
 - O you who love the LORD, hate evil!... (Ps. 97:10)
 - I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless. I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. (Ps. 101:3)
 - Psalm 139:19–24
 [19] Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! [20] They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain. [21] Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? [22] I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies. [23] Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! [24] And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! (ESV)

Q: How do we make sense of God hating? Why is it important that He does hate?

God’s Jealousy

Human jealousy vs. God’s jealousy

Q: How might you distinguish human jealousy with divine jealousy? How are they different, the same?

- Human: not always truthful, can be self-oriented; can be justified – jealousy of a husband for wife
 - Rom. 13:13 – don't walk in jealousy;
 - 1 Cor. 3:3 – For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?
 - Packer quote on definition of human jealousy – p. 170, Knowing God
- Divine Jealousy – God's hatred of covenant / creature unfaithfulness
 - God is Jealous for His people: covenant between God and man
 - Ex. 20:4-5 (context of idolatry)
 - Ex. 34:11-16
 - Q: Where else do we see this marriage analogy in Scripture when describing our unfaithfulness to God? Hosea, Ezek. 8:3, 16:38, Phinehas
 - God is jealous for His name and glory
 - **Num. 25:6-13**
 - Ezek. 39:25-29
 - Is. 48:9-11
 - Analogy: sun being bashful about being central
 - Apostle Paul: 1 Cor. 11:2-3
[2] For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. [3] But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (ESV)

God's Wrath

Definition: "God intense hatred of all sin" (Grudem, p. 207)

Q: How might we distinguish between human anger (wrath) and divine anger (wrath)?

Human anger

- Beware of anger (Mt. 5:21-22, Gal. 5:20, Eph. 4:31, Col. 3:8, etc.)-uncontrolled
- Be angry (Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26-27) – oppose evil
- Jesus was angry and yet was compliant in the face of injustice (Mk 3:5, 10:14, 11:15-19)

Divine

OT

- Deut. 9:6-8 – not granting land, can be provoked
- Psalm 94 (whole) – fitting, respond in time
- Nahum 1:2-9 -will overtake the wicked, relentless, victorious, unable to avoid
- Calculated and tempered with patience (other attributes)
 - Ps. 103:8-12 – merciful, doesn't deal with us according to sins, as far as east/west
 - Is. 48:9 – For my name's sake I defer my anger; for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you.
 - Rom. 2:4 - ...God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance...
 - 2 Ptr. 3:9-10 – The Lord is patient toward you...not wishing that any should perish

NT

- John 3:36 – 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.
- Rom. 1:18 – For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
- Rom. 13:2-4* READ – wrath is present as we as future
- Rom. 2:1-5* - READ – wrath is fair and being stored up
- Col. 3:5-6 - [5] Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [6] On account of these the wrath of God is coming. [7] In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
- Rev. 19:11-16

Packer: "...God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry when anger is called for. Even among humans, there is such a thing as righteous indignation, though it is, perhaps, rarely found. But all God's indignation is righteous." (p. 151, Knowing God, Packer)

God having wrath toward sin is not the final word on the destiny of the creature (listed in ??)

- Eph. 2:3 – by nature children of wrath
- 1 Thess. 5:9 – For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...
- Rom. 5:9 – Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

Hell – God’s fullest expression of wrath

Coming wrath

- Mt. 3:7 – Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
- Rom. 2:6-11

Description of God’s wrath in hell

- Heb. 10:26-31 – READ
- Mt. 22:11-14 – cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Mk. 9:42-50 – causing little ones to sin/cut off hand instead of hell – “where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched”
- 2 Thess. 1:5-10 – READ
- John 3:18-20 – prefer darkness,
[18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19] And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. [20] For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (ESV)

Packer:

“What does it mean to lose our souls? To answer this question, Jesus uses his own solemn imagery – Gehenna (hell in Mk. 9:47 and 10 other gospel texts), the valley outside Jerusalem where rubbish was burned; the worm that dieth not (Mk. 9:47), an image, it seems for the endless dissolution of the personality by a condemning conscience; fire for the agonizing awareness of God’s displeasure; outer darkness for knowledge of the loss, not merely of God, but of all good and of everything that made life seem worth living; gnashing of teeth for self-condemnation and self-loathing.

These things are, no doubt, unimaginably dreadful, though those who have been convicted of sin know a little of their nature. But they are not arbitrary inflictions; they represent, rather, a conscious growing into the state in which one has chosen to be. The unbeliever has preferred to be by himself, without God, defying God, having God against him and he shall have his preference. Nobody stands under the wrath of God except those who have chosen to do so.”
(p. 153, Knowing God)

Implications

1. ...
 2. Fear God because of this solemn reality.
 - a. Luke 12:4-5 – don't fear those who kill the body...fear him who has authority to cast into hell.
 - b. Lukewarm churches beware!
 3. God's jealousy demonstrates that we matter to Him! He is not indifferent!
 4. Align out hatred with God's hatred, our love with God's love
 5. Match God's loyal jealousy with holy zeal. Over time, God's singular purpose becomes our singular purpose. Live as a person jealous to see God honored and praised.
 - a. JC Ryle – Packer, p. 173
 6. Share the gospel
 - a. Packer quote, p. 156
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Reacting and Reflecting on the God of Glory

1. Why do we shy away from exalting God for His hatred of evil and sin?
2. Why is being opposed to evil such an important part of being good? How might you describe that to a person who is hesitant to judge anything?
3. Consider the things that anger you and the things you hate. How does your anger and hatred align with God's? How doesn't it?
4. Spend time considering why God's jealousy for His glory is different than our jealousy for our glory. How might you be more jealous for His glory in your private and public life?
5. How does God's jealousy change how we think about our own sin?
6. Briefly consider some of the vivid imagery related to God's wrath. What does it provoke in you?
7. How does the crucifixion of Jesus demonstrate God's hatred, jealousy and wrath? Consider how it has delivered those who believe from wrath (Eph. 2:1-4, 1 Thess 1:10, Rom. 5:9)