

Adoring the God of Glory

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

Recap

Foundation

(Ps. 7:11; Prov. 6:16-19; Ps. 5:4-5, 11:1-7 / Ps. 97:10, 101:3, 139:19-24)¹

God's Jealousy

(Rom. 13:13, 1 Cor. 3:3 / Ex. 20:4-5, 34:11-16; Num. 25:6-11; `Ezek. 39:25-28; Is. 48:9-11; 1 Cor. 11:2-3)

God's Wrath - "God intense hatred of all sin" (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, p. 207)

¹ "...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." (John Frame, *The Doctrine of God*, p 461)

Distinguishing...²

Human anger

Mt. 5:21-22, Gal. 5:20, Eph. 4:26-31, Col. 3:8,
Ps. 4:4, Mk. 3:5, 10:14, 11:15-19

...from...

Divine Anger

Deut. 9:6-8, Ps. 94, Nah. 1:2-9, Ps. 103:8-12, Is. 48:9
2 Ptr. 3:9-10, Jn. 3:36, Rom. 1:18, 2:1-5, 13:2-4
Col. 3:5-6, Rev. 19:11-16

Hell – an expression of God's wrath³

(Rom. 2:6-11, Heb. 10:26-31, Mt. 22:11-14, Mk. 9:42-50, Jn. 3:18-20, 2 Thess. 1:5-10)

Implications

1. ...
2. Fear God because of this solemn reality.
3. God's jealousy demonstrates that we matter to Him. He is not indifferent!
4. Align our hatred with God's hatred, our love with God's love
5. Respond to God's loyal jealousy with holy zeal; live as a person jealous to see God honored and praised.
6. Share the gospel

Reacting and Reflecting on the God of Glory

1. Why do we shy away from exalting God for His hatred of evil and sin? Spend time giving God glory for this.
2. Why is being opposed to evil such an important part of being good? How might you describe this to a person who is hesitant to judge?
3. Consider the things that anger you and the things that you hate. How does your anger and hatred align with God's? How doesn't it?
4. How might you be more jealous for His glory in your private and public life?
5. How does God's jealousy and wrath 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 the cross has delivered people from wrath (Eph. 2:1-4, 1 Thess 1:10, Rom. 5:9)

² "...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." (*Knowing God*, J.I. Packer, p. 151)

³ "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." (*Knowing God*, J.I. Packer, p. 153)