

MORE THAN A FEELING

HATE

PART 3

Re-examining the emotion

READ: HOSEA 9:10-17

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to view the word “hate” when looking at its relationship to God. His ways are not our ways and His thoughts are not our thoughts. (Is. 55:8-9) This means that we cannot look at the word with our human eyes and understand what it means. God’s hatred has got many different dimensions and is not restricted to a singular emotion or feeling. Make no mistake though, God does hate and that hate is directed at sin and sinners.

In this passage of Hosea, we see that God will not tolerate sin or sinners forever. His love is patient (see 1 Corinthians 13) and His people were taking advantage of that long-suffering love that He had for them. Specifically, in the context of this passage, it seems that He had reached the end of His patience for their actions once they started to offer their children up in sacrifices to false gods. God is a Holy and just God, and He does not tolerate those who kill innocents.

What is most important about understanding God’s hate is that He gives many opportunities to escape His wrath. (1 Corinth. 10:13) In His sovereignty, God will eventually allow people to have exactly what they want in regards to their sin. Often, people will fight against God and say they want nothing to do with Him and so, eventually, He gives them what they want. Once that happens, once a person decides finally to never seek God or His forgiveness, that person is now going to be driven out of the house of God. (Hosea 15-16) It is never something that is good and God does not enjoy it but, make no mistake, God is holy and He is righteous. Though He doesn’t enjoy hate, God’s hate is justified and we can give Him glory because He hates righteously.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. In regard to God's hate, how does this passage read differently than we are used to? How can we better understand how God can hate, but do so in a holy way?
2. We don't often use the word "hate" when describing the attributes of God. What is a good way to describe God's hate to someone who may be struggling with the concept?
3. When we look at God's love being patient, how often do you think we take advantage of that patience?
4. Read Galatians 6:7-10. How does this passage relate to God's hate? How does it say a person can avoid coming under the wrath of God's hate?
5. We often sin against God and use the excuse of "falling" into that sin. How does 1 Corinthians 10:13 refute that way of thinking? How can we better avoid the trap of sin?

WRAP UP

God's emotions are more complex than ours. But, we should not try and excuse God's emotions for Him. He is righteous and holy and any emotion that He has is completely, perfectly justified. That includes His hate. His hate is reserved for sinners and their sin and so there is a simple solution to not experiencing God's hate. Don't sin. The only way to see God more clearly and experience His grace and mercy is to turn to Jesus and seek Him above all others.