

THEOLOGY PROPER (70)

Communicable Attribute #8- Hate.

Although this particular attribute is often neglected, it is clearly part of God's character and it is clearly a communicable attribute, As with love, **God's hatred is not irrationally emotional, it is rationally volitional.** Just as God high and carefully calculates His love, so the same is true with His hate.

We may define God's hatred as being that expression of His character that chooses to have an intense hostile aversion or hatred for something or against someone. It is this quality that causes God, as Floyd Barackman says, to have "an extreme dislike for, and opposition toward sinners and their sins." (Barackman, p.63).

Oft times a verse such as John 3:16 will be used to promote the love of God at the expense of the hatred of God. It needs to be remembered that God's love for the world is demonstrated by the sending of His own Son to die on Calvary and to shed His blood for sins. Those who reject His Son are not loved by are in fact enemies of God who are heading to face the wrath of God.

There is an old saying- "God hates the sin, but loves the sinner." In a qualified manner this is a true statement. God loved sinners enough to put His Son on the cross. However, we must not for one moment think that God loves one who rejects His Son. The truth is, it is impossible to separate the sin from the sinner. If God hates the sin, He also hates the one who is sinning. Failure to understand this distorts both the love of God and the hatred of God.

The difference between God's hatred and human hatred is that God's hatred will always be perfect, holy, just and right. Human hatred is many times emotional, irrational and lacking in justice and righteousness.

There are many passages of Scripture that give insight into the hatred of God attribute:

1) Leviticus 18 - This chapter is filled with a list of things God absolutely hates. Most things in this list have to do with sexual immorality. He classifies things here as "defiled abominations" that will bring His wrath (vrs.24-30). God hates sexual immorality and the one involved in it. (Lev. 20:23)

2) Ps.5:5 - Notice carefully that the object of God's hatred is not the iniquity, but "all" who do it.

3) Ps.11:5 - God hates the one who loves violence.

4) Prov.6:16-19 - Here is a list of seven types of things God hates with the final one being "one who spreads strife among brothers"(v.19). Clearly the sin is connected to the sinner.

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- 5) Hosea 9:15-17 - God not only aims hatred at the sinner, but He also aims His judgment and punishment at him.
- 6) Malachi 2:16 – God absolutely hates it when an Israelite man divorced his godly Israelite wife to marry a foreign, heathen woman who promoted idolatry (2:11).
- 7) Romans 12:9 – We are command to hate that which is evil and love what is good. Our job is to hate evil, not to avenge evil. God will do that (Rom.12:17-19). Sometimes God may use His ordained leadership to carry out His vengeance (Rom.13:1-4; I Thess.5:14).

This attribute should be meaningful to us in several ways:

1. This attribute should cause us to fear God who can love or hate.
2. This attribute should promote godliness so we may be loved by God at the ultimate level-
Deut.7:12-13; Jude 20-21
3. It should cause us to love what God loves and hate what God hates.
4. It should cause us to be more calculated and less emotional in what we love and what we hate.
5. It should cause all to realize God does not love everything and everyone. There are some things and some people that are detestable in His sight.

Communicable Attribute #9- Personality.

As we have already observed in these notes, God is a Person (pp.24-25). He has intellect, emotion and will, which are the component parts of personality. God's intellect is systematic and infinite. God's emotional system is pure and perfect in both love and hate, God's will is worked out everywhere, for makes it clear that God does what He pleases (i.e.Ps.135:6) and does what He purposes (i.e.Prov.16:4). God's personality is always infinitely perfect and never needs development or improvement,.

Some theologians do not classify God's personality as an attribute. Many make it the essence of God's being from which all other attributes stem. However, based on a text such as Genesis 1:26, it is perfectly legitimate to classify personality as a communicable attribute of God.

God created man in His own image (Gen.1:27), which means God gave to man a personality comprised of intellect, emotion and will. Our personality is flawed. It is limited and sinful and needs constant development and improvement in order to become the person God wants us to become. However, our personality is from God.

The ability we have to think, to feel and to choose is due to a personality given to us by God. The more we learn to think, feel and choose as God would think, feel and choose, the more righteous and godly we become. Our personality has been specifically given to us by God and each may use his personality for his own glory or for God's glory.