

**“Why Does God Hate Sin?”**  
**(Psalm 11:5)**  
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**March 28th, 2010**

**Introduction:**

**Psalm 11**

**For the director of music. Of David.**

*1 In the LORD I take refuge.*

*How then can you say to me:*

*“Flee like a bird to your mountain.*

*2 For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.*

*3 When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*

*4 The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. 5 The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates.*

*6 On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.*

*7 For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face..*

Over a decade ago, most all of us got caught up in a TV show that was about nothing. It was named after a witty comedian with poor acting skills. It was called Seinfeld. And of the many episodes that aired, there was one that caught my attention. The episode was titled, “The Outing.” The subject of the episode was about a certain lifestyle choice, and every time that lifestyle choice was mentioned, it was qualified with the words “Not that there’s anything wrong with that.” And then it’d play the laugh track and we viewers would all join in. The message of the show was this. When it comes to lifestyle choices, it’s not a matter of right and wrong, it’s a matter of personal preference. It’s like liking baseball over hockey. It’s like working as an engineer as opposed to a health care professional. None is in any sense morally better than the other, it’s just a matter of preference. But if you were to dissect the script of that show through the lens of the Bible, we would soon see how wrong their message was.

Even for Christians today, the lines have become blurred. We speak in half-truths, out of both sides of our mouths. If we have to make a statement with any sort of conviction, we have to add qualifiers upon qualifiers so we don’t offend. We don’t want to come across as being *intolerant*. Why has this happened? I truly believe one of the reasons this has happened is because we have diluted our understanding of sin. Like coffee that’s been made with too much water, it has lost its bite. Theologian Cornelius Plantinga asks this questions and offers an answer. *Why retrieve the awareness of sin?... The reason is that although traditional Christianity is true, its truth saws against the grain of much in contemporary culture and therefore needs constant sharpening. Christianity’s major doctrines need regular restatement so that people may believe them, or believe them anew. Its classic awarenesses need to be evoked so that people may have them, or have them again. Recalling and confessing our sin is like taking out the garbage: once is not enough.*

Plantinga reminds us first that sin is an important and primary doctrine of the Christian faith and that because it gets diluted over and over again by our culture, that we need to regularly revisit this theme.

So I'd like for us to look at the subject of sin today, so we might begin to recapture God's attitude towards it and then begin to reflect that same attitude in our own lives.

### **Definition**

Sin literally means 'missing the mark', like missing the center of a target. God has a very specific instruction or target that he wants us to hit and when we sin, we are missing that target.

Sin is also the violation of a law or rule. Another word for this is transgression. Like coming across a sign that says, "Do not enter". When we disregard or disobey that sign, that rule, we've transgressed the law of God. And in doing so we've brought an offence against a holy God.

So why does God hate sin? After all hate is such a strong word.

### **God hates sin because sin is anti-God.**

- A. Sin is the opposite of God's nature. What do we know about God? We know that God is holy, pure, and sinless. Sin is that which is against God.
- B. Sin is contrary to all of his perfect attributes or qualities. The attributes of God are founded on the holiness of God.  
Justice  
Mercy.
- C. Sin is against God's plans, his will

**1** Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? **2** The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Sin is trying to dethrone God. It is against his perfect will and his perfect plans. The Bible says that God has a perfect plan and will for all his people. A design for our lives that's beyond anything we could have ever dreamed up. Yet, sin goes against those plans. It says that I am my own master. It says that my ways are better than God's ways. It tries to put someone or something other than God on the throne of our hearts.

- D. God hates sin because sin cost God that which was most precious to him. Jesus had to die the death of a sinner. And not only that, he had to die the death of a billion sinners. The God of purity and holiness allowed his Son to take the blame for the sins of millions of people. It was because of this that God had to look away when His own Son was being crucified. It was at that time that for the first time in all eternity that God separated himself with his son.
- E. And sin dishonors the grace of God. Here's God and he's given up the thing that was most precious to him. And he gave Jesus up to death so that he could undo and stop the effects of sin in our lives. He wants to stop guilt. He wants to stop bad relationships. He wants to stop separation from God. He wants to stop punishment. But what happens when you and I sin. We dishonor that gift, that grace.
- F. In short, sin robs God of his glory. Isaiah 42:8; 48:9-11

- 8** "I am the LORD; that is my name!  
I will not give my glory to another

or my praise to idols.

Take a look with me at Isaiah 42:8. Glory/honor is something that God will not part with. What this verse is saying is that God is for God. God is for himself. He is for seeing his plans go through. And what sin does is that it robs God of his glory. How? Well, basically through all the ways we've just mentioned. It opposes his nature, his attributes, his plans, his Son, his grace and his people.

This is why God hates sin. In fact this is the only right emotion that God could have against it. For God to love or even like sin would be unthinkable. For God to be indifferent to sin, that's probably worse. Because God is holy and pure, the only proper response he can have against sin is hatred.

**Hebrews 1:9** You have loved righteousness and **hated wickedness**; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."

### **There's another reason why God hates sin so much and that's because sin is anti-humankind.**

- A. There is no greater enemy of men and women than sin. We may think certain nations or certain people are against us and are our enemies. We may think environmental issues are our greatest threat or perhaps some super disease, but that is not the greatest enemy. The greatest enemy is the enemy that can do the greatest damage, that can cause the greatest harm, that threatens our lives more than anything else. That great enemy is sin. It is the greatest enemy because sin is that which can do the greatest damage to us. The greatest threat to humanity is hell. That is the worst thing that can happen to a person. And it's sin that makes us deserving of this punishment.
- B. And there is no greater enemy than sin because it is sin that brought us the greatest separation from that which is most precious and valuable. Genesis 3 shows us that it was sin that brought separation between ourselves and God forever. Sin caused an eternal separation. Our relationship with God, our communication with him, our intimacy with him was fractured because of sin.

Sin makes us ashamed and scared to go to God, instead we hide, like Adam and Eve did in the garden. Sometimes we do whatever we can to avoid a confrontation w/ God. We don't want to meet him. We don't want him to expose us. So we live trying to avoid him.

Sin separates us from God's love that he so graciously wants to pour out upon us. Sin makes us reject the love of God, so instead of receiving love from God, we will ultimately receive God's hate. What I mean is this. The bible says we are enemies of God because of sin. The Bible says we are objects of wrath/anger because of sin. So if we are not Christians then that's what's going to happen to us.

The life that every human has to live became cursed by God because of sin.

1. The ground man has to work is cursed.
2. Woman is cursed through the pains of childbirth.

- C. And God hates sin because it is sin that is destroying that which is most precious to him – man. How has sin done that?
1. Destroyed our moral sense.
  2. It's affected our understanding.
  3. It's made us to die physically
  4. It's made us to die spiritually.
  5. It's impaired all of our relationships.
- D. If a disease was ravaging a population, we'd all be concerned. We'd set up a plan or strategy to contain it, to fight, to cure it. There'd be a lot of fear. There'd be a lot of concern. It'd be on the front pages of our newspapers. The government would be issuing regular alerts. But think about it...a disease that is greater than any cancer or AIDS or flu has reached pandemic proportions where every single human being on the planet has been infected, and yet we're not alarmed. We go on business as usual. We have this frightening ability to ignore it and pretend as if nothing was wrong, as if there was no danger. But the truth of the matter is that sin is our greatest and most dangerous adversary.

**If that's the case, what should our response to sin be? It should reflect God's response to sin. We too should hate it. We should hate sin itself. We should hate the effects of sin. We should do all in our power to remove it. We should help everyone escape it's dire consequences.**

**Psalms 97:10** Let those who love the LORD **hate evil**, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**Proverbs 8:13** To fear the LORD is to **hate evil**; I **hate** pride and arrogance, **evil** behavior and perverse speech.

**Amos 5:15** **Hate evil**, love good; maintain justice in the courts. Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy on the remnant of Joseph.

**Romans 12:9** [ Love ] Love must be **sincere**. **Hate** what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Psalms 97:10** Let those who love the LORD **hate evil**, for he guards the lives of his faithful ones and delivers them from the hand of the **wicked**.

This should be our response.

### **Conclusion:**

Today begins the most important week of the Christian calendar: Passion Week. It's the week that marks the beginning of the sufferings of Christ leading to his crucifixion and then of course his resurrection. It's the week that reminds us ever so vividly that God absolutely hates sin. But at the same time, it's the week that reminds us perhaps even more clearly, that God loves sinners. And he provided for all of humanity the opportunity to be released from sins power, sins punishment and sins presence. He did that by offering his own Son, Jesus Christ, as the sacrifice, the substitution for us.