



## Scriptures and Doctrine :: Gods Conditional Love?

### Gods Conditional Love?, on: 2006/1/15 0:49

wanted to get some thoughts on the conditional love vs unconditional love debate. What do you think the bible means when it says God hates sinners?

#### SCRIPTURES:

"thou hatest all workers of iniquity." Ps. 5:5

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." John 14:21

#### QUOTES

AUGUSTINE: (354-430, Bishop of Hippo): "For it may be that GOD HATES A PERSON to the degree more mildly, as not to destroy him, but whom He destroys HE HATES THE MORE EXCEEDINGLY, by how much He punisheth more severely. Now HE HATETH ALL WHO WORK INIQUITY: but all who speak lies He also destroys." (Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Vol.3, p.462)

JOHN WESLEY: (1703-1791, founder of Methodism): "But as for the wicked, GOD HATES THEM, and will feverishly punish them." (Explanatory Notes Upon the Old Testament, Vol.2, p.1639)

JONATHAN EDWARDS: "The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much in the same way one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire, ABHORS YOU, and is dreadfully provoked: His wrath towards you burns like fire: He looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire: He is of purer eyes than to bear to have you in His sight: you are ten thousand times more ABOMINABLE in His sight than the most hateful venomous serpent is in ours." (Sinners In the Hands of an Angry God, July 8, 1741)

CHARLES G. FINNEY: "The very thing that God hates and disapproves is not the mere event - the thing done in distinction from the doer; but it is the doer himself. It grieves and displeases God that a rational moral agent under His government should array himself against his own God and Father, against all that is right and just in the universe. This is the thing that offends God. The sinner himself is the direct and only object of His anger." (The Guilt of Sin, pp.84-85)

F. DELITZSCH: "Of such (sinners - the foolish, and more especially the foolish boasters:)... SUCH MEN JEHOVAH HATES: for if He did not hate evil, His love would not be a holy love," ... "And His soul HATES the evildoer and him that delights in the violence of the strong against the weak. And the more intense this hatred, the more fearful will be the judgments in which it bursts forth." (Psalms, Vol.5, pp.122,189)

WILLIAM GURNALL: "Thou hatest all workers of iniquity. For what God thinks of sin, see Deut vii. 22; Prov. vi.16; Rev. ii. 6,15; where he expresseth his detestation and hatred of it, from which hatred proceeds all those direful plagues and judgments thundered from the fiery mouth of his most holy law against it; nay, not only the work, but worker also of iniquity becomes the object of his hatred."

DAVID CLARKSON: "Those whom the Lord hates must perish. But he hates impenitent sinners, Thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Now, who are so properly workers of iniquity as those who are so eager at it that they will not leave this work, though they be in danger to perish for it? Christ puts it out of doubt. The workers of iniquity must perish. Luke xiii. 27. Those whom the Lord will tear in his wrath must perish with a witness; but those whom he hates, he tears &c. Job xv i. 8. What more due to such impenitent sinners than hatred! What more proper than wrath, since they treasure up wrath? Rom ii. Will he entertain those in the bosom of love whom his soul hates? No; destruction is their portion. Prov. Xxi. 15. If all the curses of the law, all the threatening of the gospel, all the judgments in earth or in hell, will be the ruin of him, he must perish. If the Lord's arm be strong enough to wound him dead, he must die. Psalms lxxviii. 21... Avoid all that Christ hates. If you love, approve, entertain that which is hateful to Christ, how can he love you? What is that which Christ hates? The psalmist (Psalm xlv. 7) tells us, making it one of Christ's attributes, to hate wickedness... as Christ hates iniquity, so the workers of iniquity." You must not love them, so as to be intimate with them, delight in the company

of evil doers, openly profane, scorners of godliness, obstructers of the power of it. 2 Cor. vi. 14-18. If you love so near relations to wicked men, Christ will have no relation to you. If you would have communion with Christ in sweet acts of love, you must have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, or those that act them."

CHARLES H. SPURGEON: "Verse 5 - Note the singular opposition of the two sentences. GOD HATES THE WICKED, therefore in contrast He loves the righteous..." (The Treasury of David, Vol.2, pp.57-58)

AUGUSTUS HOPKINS STRONG: "There is no abstract sin that can be hated apart from the person in whom that sin is represented and embodied. It is the sinner who is punished, not the sin." (Systematic Theology, p.290f)

J. VERNON MCGEE: "If you think God is just lovey-dovey, you had better read this (Ps.11:5) and some of the other Psalms again. GOD HATES THE WICKED who hold onto their wickedness... I do not think God loves the devil, I think He hates him, and HE HATES THOSE WHO HAVE NO INTENTION OF TURNING TO GOD. Frankly, I do not like this distinction that I hear today, that 'God loves the sinner, but hates the sin.' God has loved you so much that He gave His Son to die for you, but if you persist in your sin, and continue in that sin, you are the enemy of God. And God is your enemy." (Psalms, Vol.1, p.72)

LEONARD RAVENHILL: "I don't believe there is a man on the whole TV that preaches salvation. They preach forgiveness. Forgiveness is not salvation. They point out "there's a man in bed with some other man's wife in a Motel". "Oh you know the Lord loves you just as you are." Well then why get changed? Commit adultery as much as you like. He still loves you. Be a cheat, be a liar, be a thief, and be a failure. He still loves you. But there's a scripture. Isn't it the Psalms 7...where it says "God is angry with the wicked every day." I heard somebody quote today "God loves you but hates your sin" that's bunk. God hates you for committing the sin. Is God going to take your sins and judge them at the Judgment and leave you alone?"

LEONARD RAVENHILL: "the menace of many of our meetings is; we are trying to get people saved who don't know their lost. "Come forward. The Lord loves you. The Lord loves you." The Lord hates you! Instead of a bumper sticker "God loves you", "God is angry with the wicked everyday" (Ps 7:11) or "The wicked shall be turned into hell." (Ps 9:17)

LAYMAN'S BIBLE COMMENTARY: "God's Hatred of Evil-doers (Psalm 5:4-5)... God is not said to love the sinner and hate his sin; He is said to HATE BOTH THE SINNER AND HIS SIN. This sounds harsh to modern Christian ears, but there is truth here we dare not overlook."

MATTHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY: "He is a holy God, and therefore HATES THEM (the sinner), and cannot endure to look upon them; the wicked, and him that loveth violence, HIS SOUL HATETH... Their prosperity is far from being an evidence of God's love...their abuse of it does certainly make them objects of HIS HATRED. He hates nothing that He has made, yet HATES THOSE who have ill-made themselves."

THE INTERNATIONAL CRITICAL COMMENTARY: "But the wicked HIS SOUL DOTH HATE... Their treacherous preparations...are all observed by Yahweh, and HE HATES THEM FROM HIS VERY SOUL. The soul is the seat of the passion of anger and hatred, for God as well as for man...therefore, Yahweh is trying the righteous man, and HATING His deadly enemies..."

THE INTERPRETER'S BIBLE: "In vs. 5 the verb 'trieth' has its object both the righteous and the wicked, and means no more that the Lord watchfully observes them both and estimates them for what they are, HATING THE LATTER and ultimately pouring His destruction upon them."

BROADMAN BIBLE COMMENTARY: "Yahweh takes no pleasure in wickedness and does not dwell with evil (or evil men). Insolent, boasting people have no position at all in the presence of Yahweh, who HATES ALL 'DOERS OF SIN.' Indeed, Yahweh will annihilate those who speak deception: HE DETESTS THE MAN OF BLOODY DEEDS AND DECEITS."

**Re: Gods Conditional Love?, on: 2006/1/15 5:24**

Jesse, this is an excellent post. Having been brought up on 'the God hates the sin not the sinner' maxim, the implications of Jesus death make MUCH more sense, in the context of all the quotes you've found. **Unequivocally**, unless a person is willing to be baptised into His death, there **is no hope** for his soul to be saved. THIS is God's unconditional love then, that Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners.

Romans 1

28 And even as **they did not like to retain God** in knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, **to do those things** which are not convenient;

29 Being **filled with all unrighteousness...** 32 **Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.**

It seems clear from scripture that even the man who is sinning (Rom 1:28), or, who is demon possessed (Mark 5:6), has a choice.

**Re: Gods Conditional Love? - posted by taco, on: 2006/1/15 5:44**

God loves the sinner and thus wants them to be changed.

If he hates them (if you are using the word hate as the opposite of love, which I would contend with) then why send Christ to die for them?

**Re: God's unconditional love, on: 2006/1/15 7:44**

Quote:  
-----If he hates them (if **you** are using the word hate as the opposite of love, which I would contend with) then why send Christ to die for them?  
-----

You are contending with scripture, then?

**Re: - posted by taco, on: 2006/1/15 8:28**

Quote:  
-----You are contending with scripture, then?  
-----

Which scripture?

**Re: God's unconditional love, on: 2006/1/15 10:41**

I think this is an honest question, "then why send Christ to die for them?"

Romans 5:6 "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Romans 5:8-11 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

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**Re:, on: 2006/1/15 10:51**

This is something that I struggle with. Does God only love us when we're doing what He wants? Does He hate us when we screw up? Since Christians aren't supposed to judge themselves as Paul said "I judge not mine own self," how are we to know that what we're "doing for the Lord," is really what He wants? What if we're operating in the flesh and don't realize it? What if we really just want to promote ourselves? How do you know that your life is pleasing to the Lord? Do we just hope that at the end of the road God will say well done? Is there any way of knowing if we are in the will of the Lord or not? If we're not in the will of the Lord does He hate us? What if your life is stubble and you thought it was gold? Do we have to spend our lifetime trying to win His approval? How do you win God's approval? How are we as sinners saved by grace supposed to know what is acceptable ALL the time? Do you just go along life in your merry way hoping that God will say well done at the end of the road?

I guess the real problem I have is that since we as sheep are so prone to error, how can we know that God loves us...not just some of the time?

**Re: - posted by taco, on: 2006/1/15 11:48**

Quote:  
-----I guess the real problem I have is that since we as sheep are so prone to error, how can we know that God loves us...not just some of the time?  
-----

He loves me, he loves me not.

God is love. To a sinful world, motivated by his love, he sent the son of his love, to save all who would put their trust in him. You can rest assured that God loves you just as the father no doubt loved 'the prodigal'. The wayward son needed to respond and to take action but I believe that the father loved him no less.

I know parents who have had to actually put a rebellious child out of their house (an older 'child' that is). Do they still love their son? Any here who have children can answer that.

The point that I am making is that hate is not necessarily opposite to love. Love is best expressed by self-giving the opposite to that is selfishness. God is love and thus has no selfishness but he does have hatred.

**Re:, on: 2006/1/15 12:45**

I guess what I'm really talking about is how to know if we're in the will of God.

I've learned a lot through Watchman Nee but a lot of it troubles me. Maybe that's my fault.

He talks about the principle of rebellion and how when Christians operate in the flesh and have impure motives when they are supposed to be serving the Lord that they get no reward. He says it's because of the principle of rebellion which Satan loves. Then he goes on to say that if the principle of Satan is there (which is rebellion) then there can be no fruit.

Take example some preacher who gets up in the pulpit motivated by pride and the love of money, even though he is preaching against sin no fruit will come from his preaching because the principle of rebellion is there.

Maybe this is for another thread on how to know if you're in the will of God or not.

I have 5 kids and work part time and I want to serve the Lord in some way but sometimes I think I want to do it to win His approval. I've got that whole works mentality. I hate that!!! I just want to be sure that whatever I do is motivated by love and not works.

Maybe I should move this to another thread.

Sorry! Don't mind me. :)

**Re: Gods Conditional Love?, on: 2006/1/15 12:53**

Quote:  
-----Which scripture?  
-----

Hi taco,

I meant the scripture quoted by the speakers whom Jesse (Lazarus) had quoted in the leading post. They seem clear and are not all from the Old Testament.... that's all.

**Re: Gods Conditional Love?, on: 2006/1/15 13:18**

Quote:  
-----I guess what I'm really talking about is how to know if we're in the will of God.  
-----

Hi Rebecca,

You've posed a lot of good questions. I guess I'd say one knows one is in the will of God if one takes time to seek Him before large decisions, and to genuinely wait until one knows what He wants - then do that. (Faith, is believing/doing what God has told you to.) With five children, it's more a matter of being led by the Spirit, and walking in the Spirit, minute by minute each day, trusting the Lord to give you a tug (check) in your spirit, if you start heading in a seriously wrong direction. (I could back up what I've said above, with scripture if you need it, but you probably know already.)

On your point about 'rebellion' (from Watchman Nee) I think that was dealt with *in principle* by Jesus on the cross when He died to abolish death and the principle of sin (not just for sins, nor just to forgive us - though they are important). As we accept we would go to eternal death if we did not accept Christ as our sin-offering, and as we accept the principle of death to the sins of our flesh, the *principle* of life, through faith, kicks in.

We may make mistakes; we may sin; but, we don't stop being God's children after we've been born again. I'm not saying it's impossible, but, it's not the first thing on our Father's mind. He is more likely to want us to return to fellowship with Him through repentance and worship, than to cut us off for ever, or, to give us anything other than His loving and compassionate attention.

You mentioned 'works'. Perhaps, rather than looking at your day action by action, you could split it up into two or three, and just practise walking in the light, as it says in 1 John 7:1, where the blood of Jesus Christ is continuously cleansing us from all sin.

If you look in 1 Cor 11:28 - 31 you'll see that Paul does talk about us judging ourselves. Does this help?

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Re:, on: 2006/1/15 14:05

Dorcas,

Thanks, that does help. I do have to take everything minute by minute if I can even find one!

Re: conditional love - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2006/1/15 16:47

I have to ask along with taco and freedd- if God hated us- why would He die for us? Why would He send His son to suffer and die for people He despises?

I think we have to be very careful about a balance here. There are many scriptures to support that God loves people.

*For the law was given through Moses; God's **unfailing love and faithfulness** came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17*

*"I am the LORD, I am the LORD, the merciful and gracious God. I am slow to anger and rich in **unfailing love and faithfulness**. Ex 34:6*

Why would it say here that God so loved the world- if He didn't?

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Just my 2 cents.

In Him, Chanin

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/15 17:07

I once heard a preacher say this.. What do you think about it?

"God will love you all the way to Hell.... then there is no hope."

Re:, on: 2006/1/15 17:57

My thoughts on it is this:

I do not see hatred here being the opposite or the absence of love. The opposite of love is selfishness.

I would say God's love would be God's care, and God's hatred would be God's disgust. God cares for all, but he has a disgust of not only sin but also with sinners. He wills there good, but He cannot delight in them.

There is a certain type of love, a Fatherly love, which God has only for those who are His children, those who have been born again. And there is a holy disgust God has with sinners while they remain in their filthiness.

What do you guys think? Does that make any sense?

That is how I've been able to reconcile this issue. Scripturally there is no denying that God hates sinners, and scripturally there is no denying that God loves sinners.

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**Re: - posted by taco, on: 2006/1/15 18:05**

Quote:  
-----I meant the scripture quoted by the speakers whom Jesse (Lazarus) had quoted in the leading post. They seem clear and are not al  
l from the Old Testament.... that's all.  
-----

Well, if you read my post you will see that I said that I contended with the idea that hatred is the opposite to love. I never  
contested any scripture :-)

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/1/15 20:48**

Jesse, I agree.

Perhaps the larger issue here is the justice/wrath of God? How can you love without hate? it would be something so em  
pty...there can be no love without hate..one cannot exist without the other. Does man not choose which side he will be o  
n? If you choose to follow Jesus and the devil makes things difficult for you, would it be a loving thing to you if God woul  
d allow that person to enjoy the blessings of heaven without ever repenting? Would you call that love? justice? And if th  
at unrepentant sinner would gain heaven, would he not take with him his rebellion and fight God there just as he has her  
e on earth? God cast out Lucifer for that reason. God only wants people who will be submitted to Him for all of eternity.  
He loves his creation but when one aligns himself up with the enemy is this not an affront to God? and why should he not  
hate that? He does not want to send anyone to hell, but to hell they must go if they so choose.

ginnyrose

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2006/1/15 20:55**

Rebecca,

We can know the love of God when he convicts us of our sin(s). This is the work of the Holy Spirit to urge us to fix the thi  
ngs that need repairing, to make us holy before God. When you no longer feel the HS convicting you, you have reason f  
or alarm. The solution? ask the LORD to teach you to be able to recognize his voice when he speaks because you want  
to be obedient. Try it and see what happens...I suggest this will answer your questins to your satisfaction...even with five  
children. I also had five. :-D And may I suggest, you need this more then ever when you have five children to mother.

ginnyrose

**Re: Gods Conditional Love? - posted by npautsky (), on: 2006/1/15 21:08**

Hello,

I had been thinking of posting something along the same lines a while back. I understand the reason you are bringing thi  
s aspect of God's nature more into focus. I once had a sweet sister in the Lord tell me that God is love and he will still lov  
e people even if they choose to go to hell. Well, this lady in my judgement was a sincere genuine Christian, yet this type  
of understanding of God and his love being unconditional really mars the portrait of the Lord that the Bible paints for us.  
God being infinite and us humans being finite, God needed to come up with some way of conveying both his infinite Lov  
e and his infinite Contempt. He has chosen to do this through the Bible with stories written in the blood of peoples lives.  
How could God more convey the infinite depth of his Love than to send his own Son to die and suffer for us on a cross?  
I believe he hit upon an excellent medium to convey the eternal qualities of his Love in the sacrifice of his Son Jesus on t  
he cross. However we musn't stop there. The Lord has also given us numerous accounts of his contempt which just as v  
ividly gets the message across as to the true nature of his character.

Consider the story about Jehu and Jezebel:

2Ki 9:30-37 And when Jehu was come to Jezreel,

Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face,

and tired her head, and looked out at a window.

And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said,  
Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?  
And he lifted up his face to the window, and  
said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked  
out to him two or three eunuchs.  
And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her  
down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the  
wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under  
foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and  
drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman,  
and bury her: for she is a king's daughter.  
And they went to bury her: but they found no  
more of her than the skull, and the feet, and  
the palms of her hands.  
Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he  
said, This is the word of the LORD, which he  
spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite,  
saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat  
the flesh of Jezebel:  
And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon  
the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel;  
so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

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Can you picture this? Jehu confronts Jezebel, they throw her down from the window and her blood spatters on the wall and the horses walk over her. Meanwhile Jehu goes and sits down and eats and the messengers come and tell him that the dogs have eaten her leaving nothing but her skull, hands, and feet. The prophet had said that Jezebel shall be as dung upon the earth and it was so. It is hard to find a much clearer picture of the Lord's Contempt than this one in the Bible. I believe ultimately, after all of his means of grace have been exhausted that this is a picture of the heart of God toward the wicked in their eternal state of torment. One thing that is for certain and cannot be denied is that the Lord himself did hold Jezebel in utter contempt because she was an opposer of all righteousness. If a person is going to believe that the Bible is God's holy book and that the stories are put there by God for a reason, then one must believe not only in the Love of the Lord but in the Contempt of the Lord as well. Both Love and Contempt will forever abide in the heart of the Lord, His Love for all eternity for his redeemed and his Contempt for the wicked who will suffer his fiery wrath of hellfire and destruction for all eternity. If his contempt for the wicked should ever cease then I suppose he could call the whole hell thi



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ng off, but he won't, he has bound himself over to his word and it will be just like he said it will be.

Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

**Re:, on: 2006/1/15 23:49**

Isn't that why Jesus cried tears like great drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemany because God would forsake Him? Jesus said "Father why have you forsaken me?" Jesus dreaded the moment of broken fellowship with His Father. He cried great drops of blood in the Garden of Gathsemany.

I see it like this; God didn't hate Jesus because God knew that Jesus had no sin but He carried our sin. The bible said that God still had to hide His face from him. God turned His back on Jesus at that moment. God is holy and He can't look on sin. If we were not covered by the blood its like sin and the sinner become one. God hated Esau when Esau was just an infant. God knew Esau's end and what would become of Esau. It's not His choosing though it's ours.

Now we get into predestination...oops!!! :)

**Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2006/1/16 12:32**

Just about the best sermon I have heard on this topic was by Finney. You can listen to a reading of it here- (<https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/mydownloads/viewcat.php?cid226&min20&orderbytitleA&show20>) God's Anger Against the Wicked