



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## BOTH+AND — WRATH+LOVE

### Warm-Up Question:

Did you grow up thinking God was more of a God of wrath or God of love or both?

**READ: Deut. 7:7-8; Nahum 1:2-3, 6-8; Psalm 103:8-13;  
Revelation 19:11-16; 1 John 4:7-10; Eph. 2:1-3; Romans 2:4-5; 5:8-9; 11:22**

### I. WRATH + LOVE: THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- What does Nahum 1:2,6; Rom 5:8-9; 11:22; Rev. 19:15 say about God's wrath? What would be a good definition on his wrath from the passages?
- What does God's holiness and our sin have to do with God's wrath?
- What does 1 John 4:7-10; Rom. 5:8-9; Ps. 103:8-13 say about God's love?
- How might it actually be loving for God to have a holy hatred for sin/immorality?

### II. WRATH + LOVE: THE OBJECTS

- What does Psalm 5:5 & Eph. 2:1-3 say about what God thinks of sinners?
- What does this say about what you personally deserve outside of God's mercy? Do you believe this, and if so, how does it affect you?
- What does Deut. 7:7-8 and Eph. 2:4-9 say about why God decided to set his love upon you?
- Read Zeph. 3:17 & Rom. 8:31-33. Do you ever struggle to believe God's passion to love you like these say? How do you want to grow in believing it?

### III. WRATH + LOVE: THE PRIMACY

- Read Micah 7:18 & Ezek. 18:23, 32. From these and other verses you've read, do you think God's wrath and love is something that he equally balances, or is he naturally bent toward one of them? How do you see this?
- From Rom. 5:8-9; 8:1; Col. 2:13-14, if your faith is in Christ, will you ever receive an ounce of God's wrath? Why not?
- How should what you learned about God's wrath and love affect how you live?

#### For Prayer:

- Praise God for his holiness and justice, and for his abundant mercy and love
- Ask God to help you grow in abiding in his abundant love for you



SEVEN RIVERS  
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# WRATH + LOVE

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## Scriptures Used

**Deut. 7:7** It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, **8** but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

**Nah. 1:2** The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.

**3** The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

**Nah. 1:6** Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him. **7** The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. **8** But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

**Psa. 103:8** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **9** He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. **10** He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. **13** As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**Rev. 19:11** Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. **12** His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. **13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. **14** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **15** From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

**1John 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. **10** In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**Eph. 2:1** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**Eph. 2:4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Psa. 5:5** The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

**Rom. 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? **5** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

**Rom. 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

**Rom. 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Rom. 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? **33** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

**Rom. 11:22** Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.

**Col. 2:13** And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.