

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | September 27, 2023

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

Question 8

Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

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What are some thoughts that come to mind when you hear a reference to God's **wrath**?

- The Fall (Gen. 3:14-19)
- Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:10-14)
- The Flood (Gen. 6:5-7; 7:17-23)
- Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24-25)
- Idolatry of People of Israel (Ex. 32:9-10; Deut. 9:7-8)
- John 3:36
- Romans 1:18
- Romans 2:5, 8
- Romans 5:9; 9:22
- Colossians 3:5-6
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:16; 5:9
- Hebrews 3:11
- Revelation 6:16-17; 19:15

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Wrath:

“As an attribute of God, the doctrine that God intensely hates all sin.”

(Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 206)

“God’s wrath is His anger toward and punishment of wickedness.”

(Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*, 131)

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The Attributes of God – Arthur W. Pink. Chapter 18: The Wrath of God

“Because God is **holy**, He hates all sin; and because He hates all sin, His anger burns against the sinner.”

- Psalm 7:11 – *God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels **indignation** every day.*
indignation – Heb. zâ'am – to foam at the mouth; to be enraged; angry; abhorrent

“**Indifference to sin** is a moral blemish, and he who hates it not is a moral leper.”

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“The wrath of God is His **eternal detestation** of all unrighteousness ... it is the **holiness of God stirred into activity against sin.**”

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“Though God will **vindicate** His dominion as the Governor of the universe, He will not be **vindictive**.”

- *vindicate* – show to be right by providing justification or proof
- *vindictive* – revengeful, cruel, malicious
- Deuteronomy 32:43
- Revelation 19:1-3
- Psalm 130:3

mark iniquities – to set all one’s iniquities before Him; in strict justice call every man to account for every nonconformity to righteousness

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Importance of Reflecting on the Wrath of God:

- First, that our hearts may be **duly impressed** by God's detestation of sin
- Secondly, to beget a **true fear** in our souls for God
 - Hebrews 12:28-29 - ... *our God is a consuming fire*
- Thirdly, to draw out our souls in **fervent praise** for our having been delivered from "the wrath to come"
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10 – ... *Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come*

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“Our readiness or our reluctance to meditate upon the wrath of God becomes a sure test of our hearts’ true attitude toward Him.”

- Psalm 50:12 - ... **you thought that I was one like yourself**. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.
- Psalm 97:12 – Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to His **holy name!**

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What are the practical implications of God's wrath for life and counseling?

- **Warns** us (Romans 2:5; John 3:36; Hebrews 12:26-31)
- Establishes in us a (greater) **fear and reverence** for God
- **Humbles** us as we (Christians) better understand the true cost of our salvation; increased **gratitude** for the gospel / Jesus Christ
- Fosters in us a stronger need and desire to **live in obedience** (i.e., self-discipline); live in a way pleasing to God
- Reminds us that a desire to punish evil is a **good thing**, a Godly attribute
- **Encourages** us to know that God's care includes a promise to punish wrongdoers in His wrath (Romans 12:17-19)

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References:

- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*
- Heath Lambert, *A Theology of Biblical Counseling*
- Arthur W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*

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