

God's Sovereign Unconditional Love of Jacob

Jacob have I loved, but Esau I have hated (Romans 9:13).

How often have we heard the verb 'hated' translated as 'loved less?'

Not willing to admit the Lord actually 'hates' people, many serious, sober and sincere Christians prefer to disregard the stark contrast Paul so indelicately presents to his readers.

However, in reality, the phrase 'loved less' falls under the category of 'lukewarm.'

To many Christians God neither loves (hot) nor hates (cold) Esau. He simply 'loves him less.'

Jesus condemns such wishy-washy, lukewarm Christianity (Rev. 3:15-16).

Our holy righteous God is neither wishy-washy nor lukewarm.

Nor is He a God of confusion.

He does not love vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.

Esau and Pharaoh are two prime examples of such vessels cited by Paul.

Jesus cites Judas, the son of perdition, as another prime example (John 17:12).

Furthermore, Jesus condemned the Jewish religious hierarchy as similar vessels of wrath when declaring their father to be the Devil (John 8:44).

By promoting the 'loved less' theory when exegeting Romans 9:13, a 'new' view of God's love is presented.

On the one hand, God's love is benevolent.

Jacob and his spiritual seed are vessels of mercy destined to glory.

On the other hand, God's lesser love is malevolent.

Esau and his spiritual seed are vessels of wrath destined to be destroyed in Hell.

Does the reader see the obvious inconsistency?

CONCLUSION: God's love is neither confusing nor inconsistent. Those He loves will be with Him in glory. Nothing or no one is greater than God's love (Romans 8:35-39).