

The welcome verse for this week is John 1:16, “For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.”



Upright or Uptight?

Exodus 24:6-7; Romans 2:4
Hebrews 12:1-17

Bottom Line: God responds to sin and to sinners in a way that is consistent with His character.

Introduction:

On July 8th, 1741, Jonathan Edwards preached the most well-known sermon in American history: “*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.*”

Edward’s sermon is not without its faults, however; in an effort to avoid hellfire and brimstone sermons, we have saturated ourselves with hope-filled messages which portray a version of God without a moral standard.

The true God resides somewhere between Jonathan Edwards and Joel Osteen.

Tension:

Neither extreme provides the abundant life that the true God longs to give us.

Our proposed resolution to the two extremes that have been presented to us typically goes as follows: “God loves the sinner but hates the sin.”

Unfortunately, though the statement is not inaccurate, it is incomplete. Biblically speaking, there is a core truth missing from this statement, namely – **God hates sinners** (Psalm 5:4-5, 11:5; Proverbs 6:16-19).

Truth:

The greatest influence on God’s conduct is God’s character, meaning, the way God acts is mostly (if not, entirely) due to who God is in His very nature.

Here’s what we know about God: God is Spirit, God is Light, and God is Love.

God responds to sin and to sinners in a way that is consistent with His character (cf. Exodus 34:6-7; Hebrews 12:1-17).

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?