

I) The Heart of a Father

A) A shaky household

B) Putting ourselves in God's situation
*ex. Prodigal Son

II) I want to outline three different responses God has to towards the sinful state of the world.

I) Definitions

- wrath- is the expression of a _____ reality. These expressions vary, but they all indicate and show the same thing-

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-judgment- is an expression of relational _____.

A) Three responses God has to the fallen world.

A) _____ wrath- God chooses to not intervene when our choices or not to interfere with the reality of sin that hurts us. Ex.- jumping off a cliff- *Matt. 6*

- This also means that on a _____ scale, people are hurt because sin and evil exist in the _____ world because God is giving people to come to know him. *1 Peter 3:8-15,* *Matt. 5:43-48*

B) Active Wrath- Active Wrath is probably the the most that the Lord has given to mankind. Ex.- image of a parent

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spanking/disciplining their child. *Hosea 11*
Acts 9:1-22.

C) The third response to sin from God is _____.
John 13:26-30, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Acts 5:1-11, Genesis 18:16-33

III) There is an _____ to the wrath of God. *Rev. 21:1-5, Rev. 21:6-8, Amos 5:18-20.*

-A Dual Reality-

part II

'Wrath of God' or 'God of Wrath'?

Scripture must be read as one long story in order to understand God's wrath.

"The conflict and plot development of the saving activity of the warrior God can be understood as an unfolding drama in the biblical narrative: God the divine warrior delivers Israel from her enemies, and Israel is God's warrior people; God also fights against Israel in judgment; these two currents meet in Jesus, who delivers Israel from her darkest enemy, Satan, and takes the divine wrath against Israel upon himself in his death." (Reid, Daniel G, Longman, Tremper III. *When God declares war*. Christianity Today. Vol. 40, Iss. 12)

Is wrath really wrathful?

Where does our anthropomorphic language break down?

As we attribute human qualities to God, the limits of our language lead us to think God's wrath is cruel or mean.

Calling god wrathful is a way to understand god, but it is incomplete because he is not wrathful in the way a human is wrathful.

Our language gives us a glimpse and a picture but never the real thing.

Sin is a terrible thing

the wrath of God teaches us that sin is terrible.

Discounting the significance of the wrath of God adversely affects our understanding of the significance of **the atonement** - the central theme of the Christian faith that Christ died on a cross in our place.

Was the cross divine child abuse?

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Wasn't the cross was an unnecessarily violent act?

It would have been a terrible thing if our sins went unaddressed.

The atonement gives me assurance that God is just and that God is loving. Without the atonement. I would have not reassurance.

You want the wrath of God

When something unjust happens, we all want justice - it is ingrained in our DNA.

Whenever you crave justice what you are actually yearning for is the wrath of God.

The Good news of God's wrath

Taking The Wrath of God seriously will draw us closer to God

"The wrath of God is a perfection of the Divine character on which we need to meditate frequently. First, that our hearts may be duly impressed by God's detestation of sin. We are prone to regard sin lightly, to gloss over its hideousness, to make excuses for it. But the more we we study and ponder God's abhorrence of sin and His frightful vengeance upon it, the more likely are we to realise its heinousness." - A.W. Pink

Fear of God

"Let us have grace whereby we may serve God *acceptably* with *reverence* and *godly fear*: for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:28,29)

We cannot serve Him acceptably unless there is due reverence for his Majesty and godly fear of his righteous anger, and these are best promoted by frequently calling to mind that our God is a consuming fire.