

## Does the Bible teach that God loves everyone and hates unbelievers?

People use the question of God's love for an individual in order to do the work of evangelism. In particular, there is the question about John 3:16 and God's love for the world, in contrast to verses indicating that God hates some people. It can be challenging to deal with these apparent contradictions.

1. Does God's love for the world imply salvation?

John **3:15-18**

2 Peter **3:9**

Hebrews **10:26-29**

Romans 5:6-9

God's love for the world does not imply that all in the world have salvation. Instead God's love for the world demonstrates that He is willing to provide a pathway for forgiveness. If sinful men refuse to take the path of salvation, which is Jesus Christ, and incorporate Him into their lives for salvation then they will die in their sins and be condemned. Though people die and spend eternity in hell because of rejecting God's offer of salvation, it does not mean that He has no love for them. The reality of His love is demonstrated by the offering up of Jesus Christ for the entire world, yet this offer of love does not guarantee salvation.

2. Does God have any love those condemned to hell?

Deuteronomy **12:28-32**

Ezekiel **18:20-23**

John **3:19-21**

Jeremiah 7:13

Just as God loved the full nation of Israel enough to bring them out of bondage, deliver them the commandments of God, remove the nations from the promised land, God's love for those destined to hell still exists. He loved even them a way to escape from the reality of hell. He loved them enough to send Jesus. He loved them enough to send them prophets and other believers to proclaim the message of God and Christ so that they might have life. God did what He could in order to avoid their condemnation. God is not at fault that men did not believe.

3. Does God really hate some people?

Psalms 5:4-6; **11:5-7**

Deuteronomy **9:26-29**

Romans **3:10-18**

Romans 9:13

Proverbs **6:16-19**

God hates people who remain in sin and iniquity. Those that refuse to repent will be the just objects of God's wrath. We do need to be careful here though for every human being is justly targets of God's divine wrath for no man, by nature, can possibly be righteous. But by God's grace and mercy, God helps people come to an understanding of their sinful nature and their great need for God's grace and mercy.

4. On what basis does God love some people?

Deuteronomy **7:7-10**

Romans **9:15-16**

God's love for some is a direct consequence of His loving nature and His choice to love and show mercy. Man is not saved just because God is love but also because God is willing to be merciful and gracious. His graciousness will be poured out on those individuals that God chooses to pour out His grace upon..

5. What does the Bible mean that God loved the world?

Numbers **21:8-9**

1 Corinthians **2:14; 10:13**

John **10:17-17**

God loved the world means that God did not leave the natural man to his own devices that condemns because of sin. Instead God provided a way for men to escape the temptation and judgment by turning to Jesus Christ and confessing and turning from his own sin.