



If God believes in goodness, kindness, and peace, then he must hate evil, mean-spiritedness, oppression, and animosity. A God who could care less about sin, evil, and corruption is no God at all—powerless against darkness—and can never be trusted to mold us into people after His image. How could he be a God who makes righteous judgments if he allows unrighteousness to flourish? If there is a God who truly loves us, he must not only be generous and kind; he must also be a consuming fire.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Introduction: Talk about how prone we are to extremes. Name some one-liners we believe/tell ourselves that are only half-true.

Group Introduction 2: Read the story of Bishop Jean-Baptiste Massillon & King Louis the Great's funeral at <https://massillonchurches.com/JBMmassillon.phtml>

WHICH EXTREME IS TEMPTING FOR YOU? Are you more likely to assume God is enraged at you, always angry and never pleased, or that God is a Santa Claus who has no concern about sin and evil? If you had to pick one of these extremes, which appeals to your instincts. Why is this so? What is so deadly about both extremes?

GETTING CLEAR ON GOD'S WRATH. Read **Romans 1:18; 2:5; John 3:36; Eph 5:6; Col 3:6.** Why does God show "wrath"? **Follow up:** Read **John 3:16; 1 John 4:7-8.** Nathan claims love is God's eternal nature, but wrath is a temporary response to sin and evil (since evil will eventually end). Is this helpful? If so, how does it affect how you see God's wrath?

HOLY AS SET APART. Read **Ex 8:22; 13:12; 29:43-44.** Why does God tell his people to "set apart" people and things? What does that imply about holiness? **Follow up:** Read **Isa 40:18; 1 Tim 1:17.** How is God "set apart" like no other?

HOLY AS WORTHY OF GLORY ALONE. Read **Psalm 105:3 & Revelation 15:4.** How are "holy" and "glory" related? **Follow up:** John Henry Newman said "we don't make it our aim to please God. We make it our aim to please ourselves without displeasing God." Discuss how this quote strikes you. How do Peter, James, and John illustrate this? **Read Romans 1:23 & 3:23.** How is this "glory theft"? Discuss ways you might be guilty of "glory theft."

HOLY AS ABLE TO DWELL WITH OTHERWISE UNHOLY PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM HOLY. Read **Isaiah 57:15; Romans 5:2; & Hebrews 12:10.** God gives us a share in his glory and holiness. How is this possible? How does God calling us "holy" (**1 Cor 1:2**) even when we are less than perfect add a dimension to what he means by "holy"?