



## Understand the Gospel - The Provision of a Mediator

**Foundational Truth:** God is free to do whatever He chooses, consistent with His character. He is always true to His Glory. (Psalm 115:3)

### Attributes of God:

- God is goodness. (Luke 18:19; Psalm 119:68; Romans 8:28 )
  - **Theological definition:** The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval. (His approval, not our approval)
    - God is Love.
    - God is Mercy.
    - God is Grace.
    - God is Patient.
- God is holiness. (Psalm 71:22; Hebrews 12:10; Ephesians 2:21)
  - **Theological definition:** God's holiness means that He is separated from sin and devoted to seeking His honor.

God governs the world with glory precisely that He might be admired, marveled at, exalted, and praised. But again and again I have found that people stumble over this truth. If God is [devoted] to His own glory, how can He be a God of love? Consider this question: What could God give us to enjoy that would prove Him most loving? There is only one possible answer: Himself! When [God] does all things "for the praise of His glory," He preserves for us and offers to us the only thing in all the world that can satisfy our longings. God is for us!! – **John Piper, Desiring God**

- God is Righteous.
- God is Peace.
- God is Wrath.

It may surprise us to find how frequently the Bible talks about the wrath of God. Yet, if God loves all that is right and good, and all that conforms to his moral character, then it should not be surprising that he would hate everything that is opposed to His moral character. God's wrath directed against sin is closely related to [His] holiness...God's wrath means that He intensely hates all sin. – **Wayne Grudem**

**Life Question:** Whatever God chooses to do will be consistent with His character (attributes). So where does that leave mankind, who He created in love but who rebelled and sinned against His glory?

### **Many people ask today:**

- ❖ If God is good, why does He send people to Hell?

### **But in light of our rebellion, should we ask:**

- ❖ If God is holy, how can He let sinners into His eternal glory?
  - We see this tension throughout the Old Testament.

Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. **Yet** he does not leave the guilty unpunished; (**Exodus 33:19 and 34:5-7 - NIV**)

- ❖ What we see unfold in scripture is that a Holy God of wrath, provides a mediator to stand in the gap for disobedient sinners and displays His Goodness through this man.
  - Moses (**Exodus 32**)
    - God did not change His mind; He stayed true to His character.
  - Jonah (**Jonah 3:1-10**)
    - God is unchanging; His plans are always unfolding.
  - Jesus Christ (**1 Timothy 2:3-5**)
    - Christ is our perfect mediator.
    - God is bound by His own righteous character to preserve the worth of His glory by pouring out eternal wrath on our sin. Hell is one way to settle accounts with sinners, but there is another way. The wisdom of God has ordained a way for the love of God to deliver us from the wrath of God without compromising the justice of God. And what is that wisdom? The death of the Son of God for sinners! – **John Piper**