

THE THEOLOGY OF LOVE...Part XII

Reference: **I Corinthians 13:1-13**

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Characteristic One... love is **patient**

Characteristic Two... love is **kind**

Characteristic Three... love is **not envious**

Characteristic Four... love is **not boastful**

Characteristic Five... love is **not conceited**

Characteristic Six... love is **not rude**

Characteristic Seven... love is **not selfish**

Characteristic Eight... love is **not provoked**

Characteristic Nine... love does **not take into account** a previous wrong

Characteristic Ten... love does not _____ in

_____ **verse six**, *“(love) does not rejoice in iniquity”*

The instruction to not rejoice in unrighteousness is something that we are not to do; but, in order not to do this, we need to better understand how someone might do this. There are two basic techniques someone can use in order to rejoice in unrighteousness and sin:

ONE is to rejoice in our _____.

There are five forms of anger God imposes on humans in response to sin:

- is _____ anger...i.e. permanent and eternal separation from God
- is _____ anger...i.e. judgment during the prophetic tribulation period and afterwards until the eternal age begins
- is _____ anger...i.e. examples: the Genesis flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the implosion of Jericho, etc.
- is _____ anger...i.e. sowing and reaping
- is _____ anger...i.e. God removing restraint and letting people suffer their own demise

References: **Galatians 6:7, 8; Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7; Numbers 32:23; Psalm 90:8** (see screen)

TWO is to rejoice about _____.

Sometimes we're tempted to feel a sense of smug satisfaction from seeing someone else sin because it causes us to feel better about ourselves since we didn't do what that someone else did. But agape love isn't anxious to expose the sins of others.

Reference: **I Peter 4:8** (see screen)

It is important to remember three questions before we speak:

- is it _____
- is it _____
- is it _____

Principle: Unrighteousness isn't something to rejoice in, but something to react against because agape love _____.

Reference: **Psalm 97:10a**, *“You who love the Lord, hate evil!”*

Question: Does God hate people?

Reference: **Psalm 5:4, 5; 11:5; Leviticus 20:23; Hosea 9:15**

and **I John 4:8** (see screen)

Question: How do we reconcile that God is love and the biblical statements that read God hates sinners?

Answer: One possible explanation is that in suggesting God hates sinners those biblical authors were using a figure of speech called a “metonymy.”

Definition: Metonymy is _____ the name of one thing for that of another thing because that substitution is a characteristic of that other thing.

Reference: **Luke 16:31; Proverbs 6:16-19** (See screen)

There are two reasons agape love doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness:

One is because it _____ God.

Two is because it impacts _____ in a negative sense.