

WE HAVE BECOME GOD'S ENEMY
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There are only two Biblical eternal destinations for our souls, heaven or hell. Unfortunately, purgatory is a man made concept. There are preparations we can make before entering eternity, but making ourselves God's enemy first is a poor choice.

Saul made a bad mistake in that regard. In the book of **1 Samuel**, Saul had once relied upon Samuel for wisdom and guidance from God, but Saul had long since begun rebelling against God. Now he was facing an enemy he knew he could not defeat without God's help and he desperately needed Samuel's advice. The problem was that the prophet had died. Saul's solution involved enlisting the help of a witch, whom he had kept alive despite God's command to kill all who practiced witchcraft. This woman called the spirit of Samuel back from the dead so Saul could once again consult with him. In **1 Samuel 28:16**, the response was chilling. "Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy?" The spirit went on to tell him, that because of what he had done, the kingdom was being taken from him and by the next day, he and his son would be dead.

Disobedience to God always brings us into conflict with our Creator. **Romans 8:7** informs us we can not be subject to God while ruled by our carnal natures. What is not subject God laws is then in rebellion against God.

It is not enough to say that we are just staying neutral. Where did we get the idea that neutrality was possible? Jesus said in **Matthew 12:30**, that those who were not with Him were against Him, those who did not gather, scattered. Being a friend to those who oppose God is also the same as opposing God. There is an old saying. "The friend of my enemy is my enemy." **James 4:4** said whoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God. Whether we want to or not, we always choose a master, and which we choose is evidenced by our actions. **Romans 16:16** indicates who we yield our bodies to is our master.

It is only possible to serve one master at a time. Jesus said in **Luke 16:13** that we will love one and hate the other. God warns us those who consider themselves to belong to Him not to play the harlot with other Gods, not to try to serve Him and other Gods. It makes Him angry. Israel's worship of idols in **Exodus 20:5** provoked a jealous God to assure them their infidelity would lead to punishment. Although carnality, which we are assured is the same thing as enmity with God, is a natural state of mind, if we want the friendship of God, rather than His anger, there is a way to change our minds. **Romans 12:2** speaks of a renewing of our minds to help us follow God's will.

Abraham found it preferable to serve God rather than the gods of this world. **James** spoke of this in his **second chapter**, "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God." David found joy, as have millions of others, in serving God rather than pursuing unrighteousness. In **Psalms 45:7**, he praises God for the oil of gladness that anoints those who love righteousness.

If the benefits and the joy are not enough motivation, then perhaps fear will suffice. David said in **Psalms 111:10** that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." Even not having an interest in the things of God carries grave consequences. Read what Paul had to say in **Romans 1:28-32**. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

We like to dwell on the loving aspects of God, but it is also possible to earn His hatred. **Proverbs 6:16-19** speaks plainly of this attribute of God. "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. As mentioned before, entering into eternity to stand before a

judge that hates us is a poor way to enter eternity. **Hebrews 10:31** assures us it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

It does no good to call Him Lord, if we disobey Him. He is only our Lord if we are subject to His commands

In **Luke 6: 46**, Jesus said to His disciples, his closest followers, “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” That problem is a simple one to remedy. Change our minds, or let God change our minds for us, and do what He tells us to do. Paul said in the **second chapter** of his letter to the **Corinthians**, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

Paul preached repentance and turning life over to God because the only available alternative was too terrible to consider