



Higher Ways

ISAIAH 55:8-9

"Eternal One: My intentions are not always yours, and I do not go about things as you do. My thoughts and My ways are above and beyond you, just as heaven is far from your reach here on earth."

When they (God's people) heard Peter say this, they stopped arguing and started praising God.

In Isaiah 55 **God's people are called to change**, to turn from their sinful thoughts and deeds (v7). They are invited to choose to think like God think's ... exalted, or higher thoughts.

What are His thoughts of sin? No doubt He hates it, but not for sins sake alone, for how it destroys. God's response to the sinner (in this case a believer practicing sin) is not to find fault and offer judgment, but to extend compassion, show mercy, and grant forgiveness.

— Coach Adams



Captivating Questions & Answers from Your Team

How Does A Man Know We Love Him?

RICK — First and foremost, COMMUNICATION is key to any relationship! Successful communication includes learning:

- How the other person listens, and
- The best time and place for them to hear you.

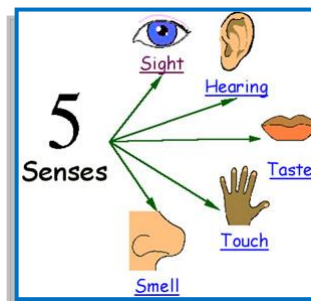
Practicing this type of communication requires knowing the needs and preferences of the other, and putting them before your own. (Phil. 2:3)

People can listen without hearing; it's important to have them hearing what you are saying! It's just as important to know what you are saying!

Men are sensory based driven!

"How I know my wife loves me," is by her engagement of one or more of my five senses.

Learning which of these most reflects your love is important. Knowing which one or what combination, and when and where to use, is also very important.



Growing in understanding of his reaction to the triggers will be a trial and error process. Make mental notes of his reactions, and then make changes.

CRISTEN — There are many ways to show your love to a man, but here are a few of the big ones that women, in particular, struggle to do well.

- Smile a lot when you are with him.
- Don't criticize his faults, instead, praise his strengths. And never, ever, criticize him in public.
- If you do need to address a weakness, do it respectfully, privately, and in a gentle calm tone from a heart of love. Not in your moment of hurt or anger.
- Tell him often all of the different things you like about him.
- Don't try to be his Holy Spirit. He already has one and it is not you.

This means learn to keep silent, letting him learn his own lessons, and letting God convict him of sin. He will notice when you are gracious, holding your tongue instead of pointing out his failures. He will love you more if you respect Him

in this way. (Eph. 5:33)

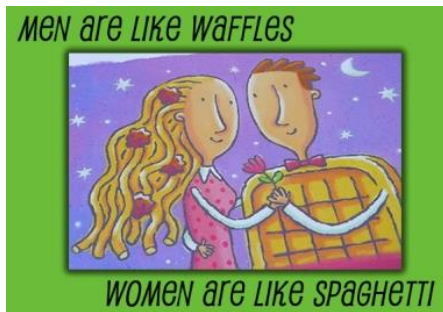
- Tell him you are proud of him and that you respect him.

Covenant of Silence Journal Exercise

What are you believing, in this moment, about yourself?

continued

- Do activities with him that he loves to do, even if you don't love to do it, like watching sports, going hunting, or fishing. And do it with a smile, not with a complaining spirit.
- Be intimate with him regularly if you are married and living together, even if you don't always 'feel like it' at first. If you are not married, show him you love him by not being intimate with him or tempting him to sin. This shows respect for both he and God, and a good man will respect you for it. ●



"Men need coaching, but even more we need encouragement and affirmation!"

- Rick

Hatred

When having hatred against a person, how do we keep from directing it towards God, it is not God's fault!

CRISTEN — This is a very good, honest, and insightful question. It is true that when bad things happen to us, it is not God's fault. Bad things happening are the result of sin, either our own or another's, or it is simply because we live in a broken, fallen world. However, we are tempted to hate God because He does **AL-L**OW bad things to happen. And this challenges our faith.

It is hard for believers to understand that a loving God can also allow evil to exist. It is hard for us to believe Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" when we are faced with the depth of our own present suffering.

The simple answer to the question

"How do we not hate God?" is to go straight to God and repent of two major sins.

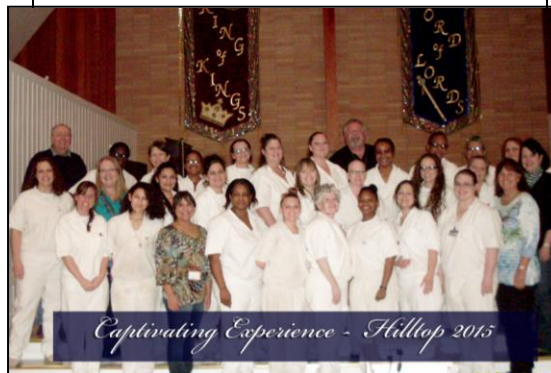
First of all, we must be honest about our lack of faith.

When believers are feeling hatred toward God it is because we do not believe the things He's said to us, and unbelief is a sin. What do we do with our unbelief? We pray Mark 9:24 "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

We must say to God, "In my pain, I am having trouble believing what You have told me in your Word, the Bible. God, it's hard for me to believe that You will make all things right in the end. It's hard for me to believe that You are Good. It's hard for me to understand that Your plan is bigger than what I can see right now. It's hard for me to accept the pain of this life and so I am angry with You for allowing it. Please forgive me, and send the Holy Spirit to overcome my sinful flesh. Amen."

Second, in Romans 8:7 Paul says "The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so." This verse is saying that in our human flesh and selfishness we hate God and we cannot even HELP it.

We all hate God when our spirit is not in submission to His Spirit. It's simply a part of our sinful nature, every one of us! It is a sin to hate our loving, righteous Father, and so we must repent for it. We must go to God, get very honest, and say to Him, "I feel hatred toward you. I ask you to forgive me for this, wash me with your Word, and clean my heart through the power of Your Spirit".



Matthew 22:37 'And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'"

Only the Spirit of God can overcome our flesh. And so we must depend on Him to deliver us from ourselves. And He will do it.

Ezekiel 36:26 says "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Why Sinners Hate God

Rev. Charles G. Finney 1792-1875

"They have hated me without a cause."
John 15:25

There is no cause for the sinner's hatred in the moral government of God. His commandments are not grievous, nor impossible to be obeyed, nor calculated to produce misery when obeyed; but on the contrary, "his yoke is easy, and his burden is light." His commandments are easily obeyed; and obedience naturally results in happiness.

Not only are the conditions of salvation necessary in their own nature, but it is easy to comply with them. Much easier than to reject them. Our powers of mind, are as well suited to accept, as to reject the Gospel. The motives to accept are infinitely greater than to reject the offers of mercy.

Now, the great reason why sinners are opposed to God, is not, that there is any defect in their nature, rendering their opposition physically necessary, but because he is irreconcilably opposed to their selfishness.

Sinners hate God, because He is impartial. They view their own interest as of supreme importance, and are laying themselves out to make everything in the universe bend to it. They would have the weather, the winds, and the whole material and moral universe, conform to the great object they have in view, to consummate and perpetuate their own happiness.

Covenant of Silence Journal Exercise

What is God thinking about you?