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God is Righteous (Pt. 2)

1 John 4:8, 16 ...God is love...

- God's Nature is that which constitutes God as God as described by His absolute attributes that comprise the essence of His Being as God.
- God's character is the expression or activity of His Nature communicated through His relative [relational] attributes.
- Before the fall, since only God existed, there was no need for the Persons of God to express mercy, patience, longsuffering or forgiveness, among Themselves. What precipitated use of God's relative [relational] attributes was Adam's sin.
- God's Righteousness is one of His relative [relational] attributes which communicate His intrinsic holiness.
- In the O.T., the same Hebrew word is used for both Righteous and just.
 - *Just* is a legal determination that one is in right standing before the Law.
 - *Righteousness* has to do with a behavior that is in keeping with God's Nature.
- To say that God is Righteousness is to say that all of His behavior is in moral correspondence with His Holiness, with His perfect and pure Nature.

- As with all of God's attributes, God's love cannot be separated from an understanding of His Righteousness.
- Because God loves that which is of His own Nature, He must hate anything that is not.
- Any behavior that is contrary to God's Nature is called *lawlessness*.

1 John 3:4 *Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness...[unRighteousness]*

Matt 23:28 *So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness...*

Matt 7:23 *'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'*>>

Heb 1:9 *YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS...*

- Why does God react to unRighteousness with such passion? It is a repudiation of Who He is. And God's opposition to that which is not of His Nature is described as His *wrath*.

Gen 18:17-33 *The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, 18 since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? 19 "For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." 20 And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. 21 "I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know." 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord.*

23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 "Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 "Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" 26 So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." 27 And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes. 28 "Suppose the fifty righteous are lacking five, will You destroy the whole city because of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five [righteous] there." 29 He spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose forty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it on account of the forty [righteous] ." 30 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty [righteous] there."

31 And he said, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord; suppose twenty [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the twenty [righteous] ." 32 Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak only this once; suppose ten [righteous] are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it on account of the ten [righteous] ." 33 As soon as He had finished speaking to Abraham the Lord departed, and Abraham returned to his place.