

ARE YOU LIVING AS AN ENEMY OF GOD?

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INTRODUCTION:

As a child there was a popular book written called “A Wrinkle in Time”. In the second installment of the series, one of the main characters has the cells of his body attacked by disease. His older sister is able to discern that the problem is that “eckthrois” are attacking his cells and causing them to deteriorate and that if something isn’t done, he will die. These “eckthrois” are violently attack the young boys cells and he shows the effects of it on the outside. The story involves the adventure to helping to heal her brother through supernatural means. The very word used to describe the evil that was attacking the characters body is a word used in Scripture to describe the attitude of an unbeliever towards God. The Greek adjective “eckthros” mean an enemy and the noun “eckthra” describe the state of one existing as an enemy or adversary. Such a person has targeted another as his enemy and has a hatred towards him. This is the condition that believers were saved from. God has taken away the adversarial relationship that we had towards Him and provided peace. And yet, as with anything in our Christian life, we can choose to check out on that peace and live as though we are enemies of God. Today we hope to provide information that encourages the believer to live in the peace God has provided.

I. THE DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD

A. Eckthra (Noun)

1. Green’s – enmity, discord, feud; alienation; a principle or state of enmity (See the Respective Attitudes of Pilate and Herod towards Each Other, Lu. 23:12/ Hate Contrasted with Fondness)
2. Friberg – enmity, hostility, hatred, both as an inner disposition and objective opposition (Ro. 8:7); plural, of hostile feelings and acts *animosity, hostilities, discord, feuds* (Ga. 5:20)

B. Eckthros (Adjective)

1. Green’s – hated, under disfavor; inimical, hostile; an enemy, adversary (See Ro. 11:28)
2. Friberg – Used of personal enemies, national foes, enemies of God; (1) active *hostile, hating* (Mt. 13:28); substantively *enemy, adversary* (Lu. 19:27); (2) passive *hated, regarded as an enemy* (Ro. 11:28)

C. CDJ

1. Technical – A Subjective and Distinct Feeling of Inward Dislike towards another Individual, So Definitive That the Individual Is Accounted to Be an Enemy or Adversary
2. The Feeling Will Not Be Contained If Exercised over Time and Can Lead to Other Works of the Flesh

3. Simplified – One’s Irrational Disdain for Another Due to Inward Feelings of Dislike

TRANSITION: Having Established the Definitions of Enmity, Let’s Look at Its Origins in Scripture.

II. THE ORIGINS OF ENMITY

(Man Due to the Existence of the Sin Nature from Birth, Has Been Estranged to God and Is Counting Him to Be an Enemy)

A. The Unsaved Man Lives Only after the Flesh, 1 Cor. 2:14

1. Natural Man (pseukikos) – pertaining to the Soul
2. Unable to Receive Spiritual Things
3. Unable to See Things as God Does

B. Example of Enmity against God, (cf. Ro. 8:7)

1. The Stoning of Stephen, Ac. 7:52ff
2. The Stoning of Paul by the Greeks, Ac. 14:8ff

C. Believers Existed in Enmity against God

1. We Were Reconciled after Existing as Enemies, Ro. 5:10
 - a. Being (Ontes)
 - b. Enemies (Eckthroi)
2. We Were in a State of Estrangement and Enmity to God, Col. 1:21
 - a. Sometimes (pote – Then)
 - b. Were (ontas – Being)
 - c. Alienated (apaellotriomenous) and enemies (eckthrous)

TRANSITION: Seeing That Believers Have Origins in Enmity against God, Let’s Examine How This Relates to Our Present Tense Salvation.

III. THE CURRENT CONDITION OF BELIEVERS

(Believers Have Been Save from the Place of Estrangement and Enmity from God by the Crosswork of Christ to Reconcile Us to God)

A. God Created Peace for Believers

1. As a Result of Our Justification by Faith, Ro. 5:1
2. Accomplished in the Person of Jesus Christ, Eph. 2:13ff
3. A Part of Reconciliation, Ro. 5:10, Col. 1:21, Eph. 2:16
 - a. Apokatellaxen
 - b. Green’s – to transfer from a certain state to another which is quite different; hence to reconcile, restore to favour

B. The Believer Can Live at Enmity with God

1. Enmity is a Work of the Flesh, Gal. 5:20
2. Paul State that Believers Can Lives as Enemies of Christ’s Crosswork, Phil. 3:18
 - a. Crosswork – The Agreement Made in Christ’s Death, Burial and Resurrection That Satisfied God the Father on behalf of the

Sin's of Those Who Would Be Saved. In It Was All of the Benefits That His Work Would Provide.

- b. A Believer Living (Walking) as an Enemy to This Work Is One Exercising His Sin Nature Repeatedly to the Point That He Is Stressing to God That the Work Wasn't Enough, cf. Gal 2:21
- 3. By Being Fond of the World, Jas. 4:4**
- a. Fondness (philos) Contrasted with Enmity
 - b. The World System
- 4. Directed at Other Believers (Misplace Hate)**
- a. **Because Paul Told the Galatians the Truth, Gal. 4:16**
 - b. **Advised against When Dealing with Those out of Order, 2 Thess. 3:15**

TRANSITION: With the Definition, Origin and Application of Enmity Now Clearly Seen, We Can Conclude Understanding That It Has No Place in the Life of Grace Believers

Conclusion: