

What Is the Wrath of God?

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” John 3:36

In order to better understand the above verse, we need to realize that it is not talking about an end result, but a process of getting to an end result. The end result is not God’s wrath. Instead, God’s wrath should be viewed as a means to an end.

I wouldn’t go so far as to equate the wrath of God with anger, at least not anger directed at the child. Instead, I would equate it with creating an environment where the wayward child’s actions are met with negative circumstances that will help the child realize the error of his ways and eventually return home. The purpose of God’s wrath is to restore, not condemn.

I believe the following verse more accurately expresses the focus of God’s wrath.

“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness.” Romans 1:18

In this passage, God’s wrath is not directed against the sinner, but at the godlessness and wickedness of the sinner whom God loves. The focus is on correction, not retribution.