



Does God get 'sick' of us?

This question came from the confirmation students. I'm guessing it grew out of the realization that we keep on sinning (over and over and over), because that question was followed by this one: "Will God ever quit forgiving us?" As in, "Is there a limit to how many times He will forgive?"

God is the "Ultimate Parent." He's our "Heavenly Father," the father who truly does know what's best. So, how does He view us - the often rebellious, unruly children?

God hasn't left us in the dark on this one. For starters, He's told us that He never quits loving us:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39 NIV

Since our society tends to incorrectly define "love" as something along the lines of "warm, fuzzy feelings of approval," it needs to be said that God doesn't hold to the same definition of love. Love is much more than a feeling. It is a commitment to do what the other person needs - even when you don't feel like it. Even when you don't approve of their actions.

God in Romans 5:5-10 tells of His kind of love - love that requires making a huge sacrifices (like dying).

...God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Jesus didn't die for us because we were wonderful, loveable children whose every action He approves of. He died for us in spite of the fact that we were "ungodly," "sinners" and His "enemies" who frequently engage in actions, attitudes and beliefs He doesn't approve of.

That's love !

Awhile back I heard a song on a Christian radio station - thankfully I only heard it once - that said, "God's not disappointed with you." The song left me with the impression that God thinks, "I know you're doing your best, so I'm ok with that." That really ticked me off, because it's not a biblical idea. It's an idea born out of that totally wrong definition of love I mentioned above.

I think the song was trying to highlight the biblical truth that God loves you no matter what. No matter what you have done. No matter what has been done to you. Here's the likely thought process behind that song: Since God never stops loving you.... and 'love' is "a warm, fuzzy feeling of approval"... then it logically follows that God always has warm, fuzzy feelings of approval toward you. But because they started by defining 'love' the way our culture defines it instead of how God defines it, I (and probably everyone else who has ever heard that song) was left with the impression that "Because God loves me, He never disapproves of anything I do." And that is just wrong! Totally wrong.

Can you love someone and be yet be disappointed and frustrated with what they've done? Parents, you know the answer to that: Absolutely!

God does care about you - deeper than anyone else ever will! And because He cares that deeply, He's naturally going to get frustrated with us, disappointed in us - even angry with us - when we do things (and keep on doing them) that He knows are harmful and hurtful for us - and other people that God loves. But that frustration, anger and disappointment NEVER lead Him to stop loving us.

Five times Matthew records Jesus using the term "you of little faith" with His disciples, because of some action or belief or attitude they displayed that was less than what He wanted from them. Did that frustration mean He stopped loving them? Absolutely not. Did that mean He came to the limit of His forgiveness for them? No way.

So, I wouldn't say that God ever gets sick of us. But I would say this, "Yes, because He loves us, God does get 'sick' of our sinful actions and attitudes and unbelief." That's why - in His love - He allows us to reap consequences for those actions, attitudes and lack of trust. More than anything He wants us to learn that those actions, attitudes and lack of trust are actually making us spiritually sick, and that we should stop them.

But never, ever forget this:

Because nothing will keep God from loving you, you can be assured that He will always be holding out His forgiveness for you as well as the power He has for you to repent - to change and be rid of those sinful actions, attitudes and beliefs in the future.

Thanks for asking,
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