

Jeremiah 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

Analysis

God asks, 'Do they provoke me to anger?' then answers His own question: 'do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?' This reveals that while sin dishonors God, sinners harm themselves most. The phrase 'confusion of their own faces' suggests shame and disgrace. This verse teaches that rebellion against God is ultimately self-destructive—it brings shame and ruin upon the rebel. Reformed theology emphasizes that sin is irrational, harming the sinner while claiming to serve their interests. God is not ultimately harmed by human sin; rather, sinners damage themselves.

Historical Context

Judah's idolatry led directly to national destruction, exile, and shame among the nations. Their pursuit of false gods, intended to bring blessing, produced curse.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does understanding sin as self-destructive help in counseling those trapped in sinful patterns?
2. What is the relationship between dishonoring God and harming ourselves?
3. How do sinful choices that promise fulfillment ultimately bring shame and confusion?

Interlinear Text

הָאֱלֹהִים	הֵם	מְכַעֲסִים	נְאֻם	יְהוָה	הֵל וְאֵל	אֵת
H853	H1992	Do they provoke me to anger	saith	the LORD	H3808	H853
		H3707	H5002	H3068		
לִמְעַן		בְּשֵׁת		פְּנֵיהֶם:		
H4616	do they not provoke themselves to the confusion	of their own faces				
	H1322	H6440				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:22 (References Lord): Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

Jeremiah 2:19 (References Lord): Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 20:11 (References Lord): But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.

Jeremiah 9:19 (Parallel theme): For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out.

