

Proverbs 29:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

Analysis

An unjust man is an abomination to the just (תֹּעַבֶת צַדִּיקִים אִישׁ עַוֵּל, to'avat tzaddiqim ish avel)—(to'evah, 'abomination, detestable thing, object of loathing') describes how צַדִּיק (tzaddiq, 'righteous') regard אִישׁ עַוֵּל (ish avel, 'man of injustice, perverse man'). Righteousness hates evil (Psalm 97:10, Romans 12:9). The righteous cannot be indifferent to injustice—it provokes moral revulsion.

And he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked (וְתֹעַבֶת רָשָׁע (yashar derekh, 'upright in way, straight of path') is to the wicked (רָשָׁע, 'wicked'). Moral opposites produce mutual abhorrence. Jesus: 'If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you' (John 15:18). Light and darkness cannot have fellowship (2 Corinthians 6:14).

Historical Context

This proverb concludes Solomon's collection (Proverbs 10-29), summarizing the ethical dualism pervading the book: two ways, two destinies, two communities with irreconcilable values. Israel's history demonstrated this tension: prophets versus false prophets, faithful remnant versus idolatrous majority. The church inherits this conflict: 'All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution' (2 Timothy 3:12).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Does injustice provoke 'abomination' in you—or have you become desensitized to evil?
2. How should Christians maintain moral clarity while loving enemies and praying for persecutors?
3. Where do you experience the wicked's 'abomination' toward your uprightness—and how do you respond?

Interlinear Text

רָשָׁע	וְתֹעַבְתָּ	תְּ	עַל	אִישׁ	אַיִל	וְתֹעַבְתָּ	תְּ	רָשָׁע
is abomination	to the just		man	An unjust	is abomination	to the wicked		
H8441	H6662		H376	H5766	H8441		H7563	
רָשָׁע	וְתֹעַבְתָּ	תְּ	עַל	אִישׁ	אַיִל	וְתֹעַבְתָּ	תְּ	רָשָׁע
and he that is upright	in the way							
H3477	H1870							

Additional Cross-References

1 John 3:13 (Parallel theme): Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

Psalms 139:21 (Parallel theme): Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

John 15:23 (Parallel theme): He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

John 7:7 (Evil): The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

