

# 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** (תועבת צדיקים איש עול, to'avat tzaddiqim ish avel)—תועבה (to'evah, 'abomination, detestable thing, object of loathing') describes how צדיק (tzaddiq, 'righteous') regard איש עול (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** (וְתועבת רָשָׁע וְיָשָׁר דֶּרֶךְ, veto'avat rasha yeshar-derekh)—reciprocally, the יָשָׁר דֶּרֶךְ (yashar derekh, 'upright in way, straight of path') is תועבה to the רָשָׁע (rasha, '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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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|                        |             |       |           |                |               |
|------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| וְתוֹעֵבָה             | צַדִּיקִים  | אִישׁ | עַל       | וְתוֹעֵבָה     | רָשָׁע        |
| is abomination         | to the just | man   | An unjust | is abomination | to the wicked |
| H8441                  | H6662       | H376  | H5766     | H8441          | H7563         |
| וְיָשָׁר               | דֶּרֶךְ:    |       |           |                |               |
| and he that is upright | in the way  |       |           |                |               |
| H3477                  | H1870       |       |           |                |               |

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

