

Psalms 26:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

Analysis

The confession 'I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked' expresses strong moral opposition. 'Hated' (sane) means intense opposition to evil, not malicious feelings toward persons. This reflects Psalm 139:21-22—hating what God hates. Reformed theology emphasizes that love for God produces hatred of evil. This isn't self-righteous superiority but covenant loyalty—refusing fellowship with those who despise God's law. Grace and truth combine: love sinners, hate sin.

Historical Context

Israel was called to be holy (separate) unto God. Joining 'the congregation of evildoers' meant covenant apostasy. The psalmist's protestation of innocence claims he maintained covenant loyalty against social pressure to compromise.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you 'hate evil' without becoming self-righteous toward evildoers?

2. What 'congregations of evildoers' do you need to separate from?

Interlinear Text

שׁ נִאֲתִי	קִה ל	מְרִעַ יִם	וְעִם	בְּ שָׂעַ יִם	ל א
I have hated	the congregation	of evil doers	H5973	with the wicked	H3808
H8130	H6951	H7489		H7563	
אֲשׁוּב:					
and will not sit					
H3427					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 31:6 (Parallel theme): I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD.

Psalms 1:1 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.