

Psalm 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

ל א ר שׁע ים נאתי קָרְבָּן יְמִינָם וְעַמְּךָ בְּנֵי עַמְּךָ
I have hated the congregation of evil doers with the wicked

H8130

H6951

H7489

H5973

H7563

H3808

אַשְׁבָּן

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.