

THE PARABLE OF THE APPLE AND THE ORANGE

Many stumble over a false perception of God's judgment, assuming He is unconditionally gracious to some and unsympathetic and aloof to others. Nothing could be further from the truth. Allow me to offer a simple analogy...

If I were to tie one hand behind your back, leaving you with only one free hand, and then took both an *apple* and an *orange* and tossed them simultaneously toward you; you could only catch one fruit. If you catch the *apple*, the *orange* falls to the ground. If you choose the *orange*, the *apple* passes you by. Nonetheless, no one could legitimately claim I didn't offer you both an *apple* and an *orange*.



Likewise, God has extended both his *love* and his *wrath* to the sinner. His *love* is found and realized in the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ, while his *wrath* abides on everything outside the person of Jesus (Jn 3:36). God the Father sent Jesus to die for the sinner. This is the universal *love* or *benevolence* of God that has been manifested to *all men* (1 Tim 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Jn 2:2). However, like the man in our analogy who rejects the *orange*, so by *his own choice* he's left only with the *apple*. Likewise, because the sinner rejects Christ, he is not under the *love* of God, but the *wrath* of God, and yes, by *his own choice* (Jn 3:36). There is no fault with God. He extends *love* and *mercy* to the sinner alike, yet the sinner spurns God's merciful plea. Thus, God's law unwaveringly hangs over

the guilty sinner spelling his impending doom. You see, it is all up to the sinner. What will he choose? He cannot have both, if he chooses His own way, due to his sin he remains under the *wrath* of God. If he repents, turning away from all sin and casts himself on Christ for mercy, he will experience the *love* and *forgiveness* of God.