



## “God Has Grown Softer on Sin”

### Prayer

### Introductory Activity

**Focus:** Some people have a caricature of God in their minds. They see him as all law and fury in the Old Testament but all gospel and fuzzies in the New Testament. People believe that God has grown softer on sin. If this lie stands, it could destroy souls. This lesson will seek to debunk this lie and give us an answer to those who believe it.

### Activity:

**Question & Answer.** You’ve been asked to write for the “Question and Answer” section of your church’s website. You receive the question below. How would you answer? *(The following passages may help.)*

The God of the Old Testament wiped out the world with a flood, sent plagues on the Egyptians, and commanded his people to kill the Canaanites. He created a world full of people but only revealed himself to one group and condemned the rest because they were born in the wrong place. In the New Testament, we are told that God is a God of love, that his followers were to go into all the world and tell of his love and that we are to follow Jesus’ example of turning the other cheek. How can anyone believe that the God of the Old Testament is the same as the God of the New Testament?

#### From the Old Testament:

Exodus 9:14,16

The books of Job and Jonah



1 Kings 8:41-43

Ezekiel 33:11

**From the New Testament:**

Matthew 28:19,20

Think about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

Acts 12:21-23

2 Peter 3:9

Revelation 19:11-16

**Your Response:**

## Consistently Consistent!

Explain how the Bible passages support the following statements:

### 1. God does not change.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).

“It is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’ ” (1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 19:2).

- What are some reasons people believe or want to believe the lie that God has grown softer on sin?

### 2. The silence of God is not indifference.

“Because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed” (Romans 2:5).

- Believing that God is soft on sin is soul-destroying! God does not mince words here. What would you say to a friend who is worried about these words because she keeps falling into her pet sin?

### 3. God is not soft on sin; he is serious about salvation. How do the following passages help us see that?

Hebrews 10:26-31

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

- Your niece is living with her boyfriend, and you try to correct her with God’s truth. However, she says, “I know it’s wrong, but God will forgive me anyway—I know what Jesus did for me!” What major misunderstandings does she have? What truths does she need to hear?

## Group Discussion

- Some have likened the way God dealt with people differently in the Old and New Testaments to parenting. If your child stole something at age 5, 15, and 25, your punishment would be different for each age but your attitude toward the sin remains the same. Is this a good analogy? Why or why not?
- Exodus 34:6,7 is God’s explanation of who he is. After reading the passage, pick out three attributes of God. Then come up with at least one example of each from the Old and New Testaments where God demonstrated that particular attribute.
- Think of the sermons we hear in church: the pastor will preach the law and show us how we fall short, then he will preach the gospel and show us we are forgiven

in Jesus. We know the message we will hear—and that’s good! However, is there a danger that we might start to believe the lie that God has grown softer on sin?

## Closing Activity

**Tweet That!** Answer someone who says, “God has grown softer on sin,” in 140 characters or less! #UnchangingGod