

# Violent Position

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Sunday, October 2, 2016

"The LORD trieth the righteous: But the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth" (Psalm 11:5).

Did you know that our loving Heavenly Father measures all people's characters by the divine standard of righteousness? The truth is, while the standard is completely unattainable with us, with Him, all things are possible. If we continue to accept the righteous life of Jesus, as our eternal covering by faith, God will continually shower us with His love.

Unfortunately, many love violence. Some study combat and dominance of innocent people. Others seek to control the actions of those they claim to love. Still others find it pleasurable to subjugate the weak. These people, if they continue to resist the Lord's Spirit to change their wicked ways, draw the hatred and ire of God. This is a remarkable reality. People who love violence and wickedness position themselves as enemies of God.

Repent. Learn to love mercy. Love the power of choice. Put off all violence and wickedness in Jesus' name. Be at peace with God, and your fellow human beings.

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# High-Value Creation

Message Magazine's Online Devotional for Sabbath, October 1, 2016

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27).

Have you ever thought about how fearfully and wonderfully we've been made? Almost as soon as Scripture opens, the Spirit underscores the fact that God created us all in His image! On many different levels, this fact of our creation means that we have qualities of God in and on us. Isaiah also taught that God created for His glory, which is no light matter. It means we are special among the many creatures God created and pronounced as good.

If we learn little else about the tender care Jesus took forming us and breathing His holy breath into our first parents' nostrils, we must get that God was intentional, and placed a high value on every human being He ever created. Since that's the case, no man (or woman) should even consider murdering or battering God's masterpieces. He's watching and takes these things very seriously.

Respect life. Respect love. Respect God's image.