How Can God, Who Is Love, Hate?

I.

    A.   Romans 9:13 "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated" A difficult statement

        1. God chose one, Jacob, and rejected the other, Esau. Romans 9:11

            a) Neither had done anything yet.

            b) God had a purpose in His choice. (Bringing Jesus Christ into the world through Jacob—a people)

            c) God's choice was God's choice. (So, that His choice is not based upon deserving to be chosen.) He chooses one as the object of mercy. He rejects one who opposes Him and show His power over their opposition.

            d) God's choice means He accepts one and rejects the other. To view accepting as loving one and rejecting as hating one is not inconsistent. (I hate that dress, color, etc.)

                (1) Luke 14:26 Hate Father and Mother—Cost of discipleship is one priority, one most important—Jesus Christ. Anything getting in the way prevents this.

                (2) John 12:25 Hate his life—Cost of what is most valuable, eternal life, is rejecting what I value most, my current life.

                (3) Luke 16:13 Hate a master—Cost of devotion is one master, reject the other as master.

            e) God has the right to make a choice. If man holds it against Him, then man becomes upset, angry, accusing God of unfairness and bitter, holding a grudge against God for His choice.

        2. God is love and He hates.

a) God is the source of love. 1 John 4:16 He extends love to man first. Man does not extend love to God first. One only understands love after accepting the love of God in Christ Jesus.

b) God demonstrates love to all.

   (1) Matthew 5:43-45 Sons of your Father in Heaven Love enemies.

   (2) Exodus 23:5 Israel commanded to do good to an enemy.

   (3) Romans 5:8,10 God loved His enemies.

c) But, God hates wickedness.

   (1) Sinners hate God. John 3:20, 15:18-19 Conflict between sin and holy.

   (2) God hates sin. Deut 12:31, Psalm 5:5, 11:5, 45:7 God hates sin.

   (3) Look at the outcome of this choice of Jacob and Esau. Jacob—Bethel (Gen 35:1-7) Esau—Hebrews 12:15-17 Immoral and godless man.

d) Love God and hate wickedness Psa 97:10, 101:3