

# How to Be Free

## Turn Around - Day 1

### ***God hates sin because of the effects it has on his children***

Do you ever feel afraid of what someone might think about you? Maybe it's someone who you admire a lot, and you know they have really high expectations for you. Or, maybe it's someone you're in relationship with who seems to be really judgmental of any time you fall short. Whatever the relationship looks like, it seems you live in fear of never being enough. It's exhausting.

The truth is, that many of us apply this same thought pattern to our relationship with God. Maybe we genuinely are in love with God, but know his expectations for us are high...or maybe we live more in fear of him, and his severe judgment for when we mess up. In either direction, when we sin, or fall short of the mark, we believe God's judgment and maybe even hatred are the result. This is completely untrue!

While God does hate the sin in our life, it's not because he hates us or is judgmental and mean. It's because he genuinely hates the effect sin has on us. God is a loving and gracious father, and he knows that sin has already been defeated through the completed work of Jesus on the cross. *Romans 6:12 (TPT)* says that "*sin is a dethroned monarch; so you must no longer give it an opportunity to rule over your life, controlling how you live and compelling you to obey its desires and cravings.*" In other words – we are free! God hates sin because he knows that when we choose to sin, we are forgetting who we are and who we belong to. We are forgetting that we are daughters and sons of God himself – no longer slaves, but free!

**As you are thinking about your perceptions of God, consider the following:**

- How has the perception of God as judgmental affected your reactions to him before?
- How have you experienced the kindness and protectiveness of God in your life?
- How would you encourage someone who is struggling with feeling like they don't measure up?