

It is hard to find scriptural support explicitly saying men are born hating God. Some theologies can get there by implication and then from there make such statements.

I would say men become haters of God during their life through a process of suppressing Truth, rejecting Light (God), and pursuing the desires of their own fallen nature. Again, I think becoming a hater of God is a process, yet it is scriptural that all are born in darkness in a state of depravity and spiritual death. All are in need of a salvation source beyond themselves.

I would say men are born indifferent to God, but not “haters of God.” Men are born consumed with self (or, the flesh, *sarx* in the Greek translated as “sin nature” in NIV and “flesh” in KJ) and the world system (*kosmos*) which is under Satan’s control.

- Ephesians 2:1-3 – “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”

Here is the process, I would tend to support (there are many other supporting scriptures if they are ever needed):

Men are born in the image of Adam since all our human natures come from a man who rebelled against God and altered the physical and spiritual condition of man.

- 1 Corinthians 15:22 – “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

Man’s nature is fallen and aligned with the darkness of the world, thus they are comfortable in the darkness. Being comfortable in the darkness means men are uncomfortable in the light since it exposes their weakness, mortality, sinfulness

- John 3:19 – “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”

Men are born basically indifferent to God and are consumed with concern for the things of their own interest in the world and of their flesh. Not the things of God. This is not hate, but indifference.

- John 1:4, 5, 10, 11 – “In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome (understood) it...He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”

Some men respond to God’s offer of salvation with positive volition and are removed from this kingdom of darkness and are “born again” to receive a new life source and a new nature empowered by God himself and indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

- Ephesians 5:8-14, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.”
- 1 Peter 1:23 – “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

Men’s indifference can turn to hate as they progressively reject God’s revelation of himself. Man can become a hater of God. Notice the progression Paul details in Romans 1:

- Romans 1:18-32, - “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without excuse. For
 - although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but
 - their thinking became futile and
 - their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise,
 - they became fools... Therefore
 - God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity...because of this,
 - God gave them over to shameful lusts....since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God
 - he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.
 - **(RESULT)** They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, **God-haters**, insolent, arrogant and boastful...
 - Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”
- James 4:4, “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means **enmity against (hatred toward) God?** Therefore anyone who **chooses** to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Hatred of God – sample text that mention men hating God...never a birth issue, but a hatred developed/refined in life:

- Exodus 20:5 – “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”
- Deuteronomy 5:9 - “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”
- Deuteronomy 7:10 – “those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.”
- Deuteronomy 32:41 – “when I sharpen my flashing sword and my hand grasps it in judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and repay those who hate me.”
- 2 Chronicles 19:2 – “Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, ‘Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you.’”
- John 15:23-25 – “Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’”
- - (From Psalm 35:19 – “Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye.”
 - From Psalm 69:4 – “Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.”)

To say all men are born hating God is an oversimplification and an overstatement.

This position is often rushed into by Calvinist with Reformed Theology developed in the 1500's and 1600's specifically by John Calvin who basically updated the writings of Augustine from 400 AD. Martin Luther was in agreement and wrote such monumental works as “The Bondage of the Will.” (I believe it is a great work but begins with a flawed premise that must be retraced and retracted to avoid a long, meticulous study of wrong conclusions and applications. Four churches in Littleton, Co. that would agree with Calvin and Reformed Theology concerning salvation, or soteriology, are Grace Point, Cherry Hills, Horizon and New Covenant. But, many other churches over the last 20 years have been militantly infiltrated by individual believers who have become known as the Young Calvinist. They are a new generation hungry for absolute doctrines instead the mystical/emotional spiritual experiences. They move into and roll right over the illiterate unaffiliated churches and take over through Sunday school classes, home Bible studies and speaking opportunities in the pulpit.)

Men are born in darkness, are comfortable in darkness and conceal their own failures and sinfulness in darkness. The light calls them to salvation (freely) which requires them to accept the convicting truth that they are wrong, God is right, Jesus has died to give them a new nature and they must confess they are wrong and accept Jesus as Lord. There are only two ways to respond: Yes, which leads to fulfillment and love of the truth and light; or, No, which drives men further into the darkness to conceal their wickedness and to justify their own sinful self and evil practices. This hardening of the heart will eventually lead to a hatred of light, truth, God and anything/anyone associated with the light, truth and God.

- John 15:18-19 – Jesus said, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”
- Luke 21:17 – Jesus said, “Everyone will hate you because of me.”
- Mark 13:13- Jesus said, “Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.”
- Matthew 24:9 – Jesus said, “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.”

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.”

- First John 2:15-17