

1 John 2:9-11

9 *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.*
 10 *Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.* 11 *But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.*

miseó (mis-eh'-o) = hate, detest, to be without love

"Does this mean that Christians cannot have disagreements? Cannot be angry? That emotions of dissent must be repressed?...I believe John is describing a sustained attitude that repudiates [refuses to be associated with] another. It is a disposition of heart that condemns and criticizes out of habit and has not been shaped by the selfless love of God." – Dr. Gary Burge

agapaó (ag-ap-ah'-o) = love as God has loved us, actively doing what the Lord prefers

There's a proverbial "fork in the road" when it comes to our relationship with people.

Proverbial "fork in the road"...

One road = *hatred* and it leads to death and darkness

The other = *love* and it leads to life and light

John 13:34-35

34 *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.* 35 *By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

"This is the true spirit of Christian love. It is the native instinct of the heavenborn soul... to think of others, and especially of the most needy and helpless ones. Let no one dare to call themselves a disciple of Jesus who does not care." – A.B. Simpson, Sept. 23, 1899

How do we invoke love and banish hate?

1. Prioritize communion with God

Matthew 15:18-20

18 *But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.* 19 *For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.* 20 *These are what defile a person...*

2. Be fiercely oppositional to the ways of this world

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dulllest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations...There are no *ordinary* people. You have never met a mere mortal." – C.S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*



3. Use the authority that we have in Christ

Genesis 4:6-7

6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? 7 If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it."

I invoke the love of God that is in Christ.

I invoke that love in all its glory against powers of hatred that are pounding at the door.

I banish hatred from my heart.

I banish hatred from my relationships.

I banish hatred from my marriage and family.

Everywhere I have dominion, I banish hatred and invoke love.

1 John 4:19-21

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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