

Let's Talk About Hate

By: David Sproule

The topic of hate generates all sorts of thoughts and emotions. Unfortunately, we are living in a culture right now that is engulfed in bitter, bitter hatred. And, as much as some might try to rationalize their hatred for certain individuals, there is nothing rational about people hating people.

How is a Christian to live in this kind of environment? Too often we “get sucked in” and begin to imitate the behavior (and the hatred) that we see around us. Is it ok for a Christian to hate someone else? In all things we are to “be imitators of God” (**Eph. 5:1**), so let's examine the matter of hate from God's perspective. Does God hate anyone? Did He ever?

One would be hard-pressed to successfully teach with the Bible that God hates any person. BUT, does that mean that God does not “hate” at all? Quite the contrary. The Bible teaches that God hates “every abomination” (**Deut. 12:31; Jer. 44:4**), “evil” (**Prov. 6:18**), idolatry (**Deut. 16:21-22; Rev. 2:6, 15**), “wickedness” (**Psa. 45:7; Heb. 1:9**), “iniquity” (**Psa. 5:5**), pride (**Prov. 6:17**), “lying” (**Prov. 6:17**), murder (**Prov. 6:17**), “wicked plans” (**Prov. 6:18**), “a false oath” (**Zech. 8:17; Prov. 6:19**), “divorce” (**Mal. 2:16**), etc.

Notice carefully that it is the act, the deed, the intent that God hates. For example, Scripture teaches that God hates “divorce,” but it never teaches that God hates one who is

divorced. God hates sin and evil, because it is contrary to His holy nature (**Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:16**). But the Bible just as clearly teaches that God loves sinners (**Rom. 5:8; John 3:16**), to the extent that He sent His own Son to die for them. That's not hate! That's love (**1 John 4:10**)—even toward the worst sinners who have ever lived!

The Bible very plainly makes the same distinction for followers of God. We are also to hate “evil” (**Psa. 97:10; Prov. 8:13; Amos 5:15**), “every false way” (**Psa. 119:104, 128**), “lying” (**Psa. 119:163; Prov. 13:5**), “pride” (**Prov. 8:13**), “arrogance” (**Prov. 8:13**), “the perverse mouth” (**Prov. 8:13**), etc. But in no Bible passage are children of God called upon or permitted to hate anyone! Hate sin? Yes! Hate evil and wickedness in every form? Yes! Hate a person made in the image of God? No! There's no Bible for that!

Rather, the child of God is to follow the example of God, even (and especially) in this respect. Rather than hate anyone, we are to “love” everyone (**Matt. 5:44**). That love is not merely in word or thought (**1 John 3:18**), but is demonstrated when we “do good to” and “pray for” all men (**Matt. 5:44; Gal. 6:10**). Brethren, we cannot hate someone and claim to be “of God” (**1 John 2:9, 11; 3:15; 4:20**)! As children of God, we must conform ourselves to the image of our God!

13 Things Every Teen Needs to Know (#7)

By: Selected

I hope you've been truly contemplating the notes so far and that you're examining these things for yourself. You must make up your own mind about God and His will for you. I have something else that I hope you will truly consider, take to heart and keep with you for the rest of your life.

Lock this in your heart: **There really is only one church that belongs to Christ and is acceptable to Him!** I know that might sound harsh or mean or maybe even arrogant, but that's only because we've been conditioned to see things through man's eyes instead of through God's eyes. Consider this from God's perspective (through the words of the Bible).

Truth: God planned for His church from eternity! The church was not an afterthought or a take-it-or-leave-it club membership. The Lord's church was an integral part of His masterful, "eternal purpose" (**Eph. 3:9-11**).

Truth: God prophesied the coming of His church! Throughout the pages of the Old Testament, God repeatedly foretold of the coming of His kingdom (**Dan. 2:44; Matt. 16:18-19**) and His house (**Isa. 2:2-4; 1 Tim. 3:15**), which is the church. He kept telling the world, "It's coming. It's coming."

Truth: Jesus promised to build His church! When God became flesh on this earth, He continued to predict the coming kingdom (**Matt. 4:17**) and He promised that He would build it (i.e., the church/kingdom) Himself (**Matt. 16:18-19**).

Truth: Jesus purchased His church for Himself and to Himself! The church was such a vital part of God's plan that Jesus sacrificed Himself and paid for it with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**). Reconciliation to God is only possible in His body, and His body

is only possible through His blood (**Eph. 2:14-18**).

Truth: Jesus planted His church in Acts 2 and propagated it throughout the New Testament era! The church we read about in the book of Acts and the rest of the New Testament is His church—the one He prepared, promised and provided!

Truth: God purposed for there to be only one church, He proclaimed there was only one church and He permits only one to be called His church! Every Biblical proclamation speaks of the church as singular in nature. God said, "There is one body," which is "the church" (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**), and Jesus warned a congregation of His church that He could remove their status as His church (**Rev. 2:5; cf. 1:20**). He only has one church!

Truth: God placed the church in His plan of salvation! The blood of Jesus that saves us from our sins (**Rev. 1:5**) is the blood of Jesus that saves the church (**Eph. 5:23**). One cannot be saved and go to heaven outside His church (**1 Cor. 15:24**).

The Lord's church is not optional! It is essential!



Upcoming Events

November 5: Monthly Sunday potluck with a 12:45 service to follow. Please bring a dish/ dessert to share.

Nov. 12: Monthly youth devotional. More details to come.

Area Events:

Nov. 11: Weber Road church of Christ Bible Bowl.

More Area events are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rick Bass’ aunt Mary Alice, is doing much better. Thank you for your prayers.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Volunteers Needed

Sign up sheets for hosting Youth Devos, preparing communion, and opening & closing the building for 2023 are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Food Helpers for the month of Oct. - Team B

Compassion Card Program:

If you know of a non-Christian who is in need of encouragement, and lives within a 30-mile radius of Victoria, please see James Cammock.

Service Roster

Week of October 15, 2023

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader Kevin Sheeran

Opening Prayer.....Mike Atkinson
Closing Prayer.....James Cammock

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Dan Fielder
Cup.....Joseph Sheeran
Offering.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Steve Randle

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Rick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Willie Fossati

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Ken Dorries/
Bill York

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Brandon Starling
Song Leader.....Ken Dorries
DevotionalJames Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion for October.....Randle

Congregational News

Birthdays

Pam Clifton.....Oct. 15
Eve Starling.....Oct. 18
Mickey DeDear.....Oct.19
Debra Prince.....Oct. 19
Corinne Flonnory.....Oct. 20

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”
Romans 12:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 8, 2023

A.M. Bible Class.....70
A.M. Worship.....101
P.M. Worship.....48
Wednesday Bible Class.....65

Financial information is located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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