



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Is hatred always wrong?

Answer: No. Hatred normally has a bad connotation in the minds of most. This, no doubt, is due to the numerous passages in the Bible forbidding such. Never would I permit where God forbids!

Hate was spoken of in Luke 14:26, as "loving less" when the Lord taught that He could not be served properly by man unless he "hate" his family members and "his own life also." Yet in I Jn. 3:15, a man is called a murderer if he "*hates his brother.*" There is not a contradiction to be found here, but a different use of the term. The Lord actually "*loves those who hate evil*" (Ps. 97:10), and finds joy in them (101:3). Hatred becomes a problem, actually a sin, when it is focused at someone. The Lord broke tradition by requiring His followers to "*love their enemies*" instead of hating them (Matt. 5:43) and placing judgment upon them proportionate to their forgiveness of others (Matt. 6:15). We are told to "*Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven*" (Lk. 6:37).

Hatred is considered as a "*work of the flesh*" (Gal. 5:19, 20) and listed as one of the "*seven abominations of God*" within the heart of man (Prov. 26:24-26). "*Hatred stirs up strife; but love covers all sins*" (Prov. 10:12). When a brother hates another it is serious, because he is abiding in death (I Jn. 3:1-15). How can a man love God whom he cannot see when he cannot love man who he can see (I Jn. 4:20)? The lesson to learn is that hatred is an abhorrence of that which is bad not a castigation of character. We must hate sin, but never the sinner, thus exhibiting the mindset of our Lord (Heb. 8:12).

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