

March 20, 2022
God Loves You - Pt 10
The Love – Hate Paradox

Love Is a Many Splendored Thing

Songwriters: Webster Paul Francis, Fain Sammy. @1955

Youtube version by Nat King Cole. 1961

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnPbneUdjcs>

We have been talking about love for 10 weeks now, and we are really only scratching the surface of what Love, Biblical, Godly love is, and how we can let it be the foundation, motivation and expression of our Christian Discipleship living.

If we are to truly have a broad spectrum and deep understanding of Love, as a Disciple of Christ, we need to better understand the paradox and sometimes confusing connection between Love & Hate. With our keen focus on love it may be tempting to forget that genuine love also has a strong connection to hate...a proper godly hate of evil, that is. We need to get a firm grasp on this paradox so that we are not confused ourselves, or be confusing to an onlooking world.

Take these well known verses as an example:

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 & 8...¹ *There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven:...*⁸ *a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.*

It is obvious that one needs great wisdom and discernment in order to determine which action is

need and at what time. I do want to state upfront that the ‘Hate’ we are discussing is not a worldly, fleshly, emotionally uncontrolled outburst. Biblical love, like the song we heard at the beginning of the service, Nat King Coles’ 1961 rendition of “Love, Is A Many Splendored Thing”, is a multi-faceted diamond trait that needs and deserves our Intentional, Deliberate and Consistent focus.

Today we look at the paradox of Love & Hate.

Portions of the following adapted from:
Members Bible Study. U.S. Capitol Ministries
Sorting Out Love and Hate In An Election Season
From: Pastor Ralph Drollinger Date: Sept. 24, 2012

Let’s First Look Briefly at Things We Should Love

We started with a passage of Scripture from Solomon’s writings in Ecclesiastes, but let’s now turn to his writings and wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

1. LOVE KNOWLEDGE

Proverbs 1:22... *How long, O thoughtless and naive people, will you love being simple-minded? And how long will you scoffers delight themselves in mocking and foolishly hate knowledge?*

In this verse we see just how confusing this subject of love and hate can be. The use of the word ‘love’ in this verses’ context is a negative one. They love being simple-minded, scoffers and mockers.

So the use of the word 'love' here is not a trait that we should seek after. The crazy thing is the word for 'naïve' is from the Hebrew word 'pethi', which actually has as one of its translations "open-minded". Now many think that being open-minded is a good trait, but the usage here in this verses is not in the context of comparing open-minded with closed minded, but with the greater point of open-minded versus God-minded.

The problem is that people have a tendency to be open-minded, in the context of moral relativism, where we take into consideration any teaching or concept that comes our way and choose ourselves on its truthfulness. But a person who truly loves God will love Knowledge, that is truth that comes from God. We do not accept the world's or our personal opinion, we should let God and His truth His knowledge be that which we earnestly seek after and "love".

I could make it a separate point to say specifically Love God's Word, aka

2. LOVE DISCIPLINE

Proverbs 3:12... *For whom the LORD loves He disciplines, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.*

We have already addressed this issue in our Sunday, March 6th message "Love and the Discipline Connection".

It appears from these verses that discipline or correction is actually a sign of God's love and that we should then actually seek after it or 'love' it. Sounds strange, I know. But listen to what Solomon tells us in **Proverbs 12:1**... *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is unreceptive, brutish and dull-hearted.*

Proverbs 8:10... *Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,*

The mark of a true disciple then is one who loves or seeks after God's knowledge and accepts that discipline is a way that God uses to teach us.

3. LOVE YOUR SPOUSE

Proverbs 5:19... *A loving doe, a graceful fawn— let her breasts always satisfy you; be exhilarated and lost in her love forever.*

This verse is set in a chapter that contrasts fidelity and adultery in a marriage relationship.

To those who are married we should be deeply enthralled in love with our spouse, We should let them, and them alone fulfill our desires emotionally and sensually. This means that we are to be totally faithful in our marriage relationship. There is absolutely NO room for unfaithfulness to your spouse and also to your God.

To those who are listening and you are not married, that means that our faithfulness is to God and God alone. We should not allow our desires to overcome us. We must be so in love we God that we subject our desires to His will.

4. LOVE INSTRUCTING YOUR CHILDREN

Proverbs 13:24... *If you love your children, you will correct them; if you don't love them, you won't correct them.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7... *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

Not everyone listening may have children, but for those who do, or you may have grandchildren, or be in a position to teach other people's children, we should be involved in instructing them. It is a privilege, as well as a expectation of a true disciple. This can also be extended to having a love to instruct or pass along biblical insight and wisdom to any person that will listen.

5. LOVE OTHERS

Proverbs 10:12... *Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.*

Proverbs 17:9... *He who conceals a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates intimate friends.*

This may seem redundant but we are to Love, Loving Others. Biblical love uplifts, encourages, corrects, edifies and brings about reconciliation. I have given numerous messages on this subject, so I am assuming that you are good on this point. LOL

6. LOVE THE LORD

Proverbs 8:17 & 36... *I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me. 8:36 But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.*

This point is one that I have addressed over and over and again am assuming we are in agreement on this subject! However, I wanted to list it here just to remind us.

THINGS WE SHOULD HATE

Proverbs 6:16-19: *There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

1. HATE PRIDE (Haughty Eyes)

“Literally this means “high eyes.” The idea is a proud look that portrays a haughty heart. **Isaiah 10:12- 14** has the same phrase that depicts the pagan King of Assyria, the world’s most powerful nation at the time, who willfully and defiantly took all the credit as he ruled in autonomy. God hates arrogance; so should you”. (Drollinger)

2. HATE LYING (Lying Tongue)

Proverbs 3:3... *Let love and truth never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.*

God is the source of all truth, Jesus is Truth, and the Holy Spirit is the ‘Spirit of Truth’. If we are to be in alignment with God, then truth, not lies, deception or half-truths should be our pattern.

3. HATE THE SHEDDING OF INNOCENT BLOOD (Hands that Shed)

God is the Creator and Sustainer of life. He calls us to choose life (**Deut. 30:19**). It is therefore incumbent upon true disciples to seek and secure life, not death. In the world there has always been, and seems to be increasing, a lack of sanctity for life – Abuse, battery, murder, abortion and unjust war, are examples. If we truly Love God, we will love life and seek to save it.

4. HATE WICKED PLOTTING (Heart)

“The Hebrew word **devise** *charash* means “to plow.” Likened to a farmer who plans and plots out his field so as to maximize his labor, this person premeditates a scheme to hurt his neighbor. The verb *charash* is in the continuous tense, further denoting that this man’s plotting is ongoing; his ways are not a one-time event. The word **wicked** *aven* is used 27 times in the OT. Contextually in its usages, it is descriptive of someone who is intent on harming those given to the worship of God. The power the wicked use to enact harm is the power to constantly persuade others by use of their false mouth; they distort and twist reality through half-truths, white lies, deception and distortion. God hates wickedness; so should you”. (Drollinger)

5. HATE WICKED IMPLEMENTATION (Feet)

This point is tied to the previous one (wicked plotting). In the last point the word ‘heart’ was the focal point. It is the planning, plotting and conniving. In this point...Wicked Implementation... the body part “feet” is used. This gives the indication of intentional action and implementation

That’s why it is important to heed the words of **Proverbs 4:23**... *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

If in your heart (aka your mind and will) you devise wicked schemes, then you will most likely IMPLEMENT them for evil. If we truly Love God, and Love One Another we will Hate Wicked deeds.

6. HATE PERJURY (False Witness-whole character)

This point is connected with # 2 – The Lying Tongue. It takes lying and puts it in a specific legal or judicial setting a false witness or ‘sheqer’ in Hebrew, which carries the meaning of distorter or deceiver who ‘breaths out lies’.

Zechariah 8:17... *God says, “...do not love perjury, for all these are what I hate, declares the Lord.”*

7. HATE DIVISION (Result of Prior Actions)

This final point is in essence a culmination of the hated behaviors that precede it. In essence these verses are using the metaphor of our bodies or our entire being as a portrait. We see evil with our eyes, we speak it with our tongues, our hands shed innocent blood, our heart devises wicked, and our feet carry it out, we then deceive and lie about others which then results in this final event... Division and discord.

As mentioned earlier God desires truth, life and harmony, but the wicked seek strife and discord. “God hates those who cause divisions; you should too. In summary of these seven sins, we too should hate the sin, but love the sinner.” (Drollinger)

TAKE AWAY

Romans 12:9...*Love is to be sincere and active [the real thing—without guile and hypocrisy]. Hate what is evil [detest all ungodliness, do not tolerate wickedness]; hold on tightly to what is good.*
(Amplified Bible)

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