

In search of...

Truth & Right

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Right Kind of Hatred

Perhaps the title of this article is confusing to you. Please allow me to explain. Hate is best defined/described as an intense, violent kind of anger, and while we know from the Scriptures that there is nothing wrong with getting angry from time to time ("Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil." Eph. 4:26-27), feeling hatred towards someone and letting that anger come out in hurtful words and/or actions is clearly in opposition to what God's Word teaches us.

There is no shortage of passages dealing with how a child of God is to feel and behave regarding their emotions, and anger is no exception.

"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the

council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire." (Matt. 5:21-22)

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," (Matt. 5:43-44)

"Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions," (Gal. 5:19-20)

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph. 4:31-32)

"But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander and obscene talk from your mouth." (Col. 3:8)

"I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelings;" (1 Tim. 2:8)

"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (James 1:19-20)

"Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes." (1 John 2:9-11)

Our God and Father has made Himself abundantly clear. We are not to be hateful people. We are to love, forgive, and show kindness as much as we are able. So, how can it be that there is a "right" kind of hate? Would it not make sense to say that it is a word that has no place in a Christian's vocabulary? Well, yes and no. Yes in the sense that we are not, EVER, to hate another person, another human being made in the image of God. However, there is another thing to think about when we consider this word and feeling hatred: realize that there is something that, not only CAN we hate it, but according to the Bible, we SHOULD hate: sin.

Explaining why we should hate sin is not hard to do. The shortest answer is to simply point out that as Christians, we are to strive in every way to make our will the same as God's. Remember that Christian means Christ-like, and so, we must be

like Him, and it is plain to see that Jesus hates sin. Understanding that God is holy and perfect tells us that He has no part in sin, and furthermore that He hates the result of sin.

"For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you." (Psalm 5:4)

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

"but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness." (Isaiah 59:2-3)

God loves us. We do not deserve it, but He loves us all the same. It is because He loves us so much that He hates sin, because sin takes us away from Him. He wants us to draw near to Him, and He wants to draw near to us, yet when we engage in sin, violating His commands, we run away from Him. I say all of this to highlight the fact that we all need to make serious evaluation of how we are living and ask ourselves: do I hate sin? Do I hate it and see it as disgusting and filthy the way my God and Savior does? If not, why not?!

Satan, as we know, is very good at what he does. A big part of that- tempting us to turn away from the Lord- is to make sin look attractive. He plays on our desires, turning those up to eleven in the hopes that our lust will lead us to

transgress God's Word. Part of this is minimizing the damaging effects of sin. He whispers, "It's no big deal," "No one will ever know," and "A little bit won't hurt" in an effort to make us compromise our morals and pretend that sin is nothing to feel bad about.

There is a song we sing titled, "I'm the One" and one line from it gets this thought across extremely well. "I could not do a single thing to hurt God's only Son, but every time I sin on Earth, I feel that I'm the one." When we sing those words, do we mean them? Do we realize that when we, whom Christ died for, who have been buried with Him in baptism to have our sins forgiven, willfully sin, it is the same as if we were driving the nails into Him or mocking Him while He hung there in agony? Do not take my word for it. Just look at the Scriptures:

"and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding Him up to contempt." (Heb. 6:6)

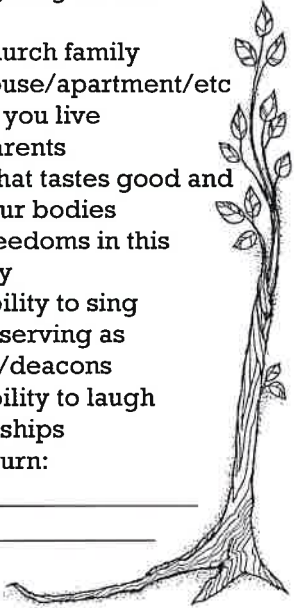
For just a moment, think about some things that you might say you have hated in your life; stubbing your toe, a rival sports team beating your home team, or being so sick that you cannot seem to get out of bed (or the bathroom). Now, do you hate sin as much as those? Hopefully the hatred you feel towards disobeying the Lord goes way beyond such things! Hate sin with a passion! Hate the power that it holds in this present world, and rejoice that when Jesus comes again, sin and death will be destroyed! Praise God for His wonderful grace toward us!

Jarred Currence

Dear God,
thank you for being there
when nobody else was.

Have you thanked God today
for any of the following?

- The Bible
- Jesus giving His life for us
- Our church family
- The house/apartment/etc where you live
- Our parents
- Food that tastes good and fuels our bodies
- Our freedoms in this country
- The ability to sing
- Those serving as elders/deacons
- The ability to laugh
- Friendships
- Your Turn:



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Fifth Sunday Photos

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of a member doing work for the Lord, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page or tweet us @wellsburgchurch #fifthSundayphotos or e-mail us at minister@truthandright.org with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



Our website has been recently redesigned. Have you had the chance to check out what has changed? Let us use this resource to spread the gospel locally and worldwide! Share it!

"But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." – Titus 2:1

Ed Roberts leads the congregation in singing "Master, the Tempest Is Raging" during our singing service on November 25th.

"Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart," – Eph. 5:19

