

# Hate

## Part 1

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2013)

As they grow up, many children are taught to avoid hating others. Presumably, for those with a religious background this instruction comes from the Bible, Koran, or some other work that is regarded as having moral authority. For those who consider themselves Christians or Jews, the Bible would be their reference for determining whether hate is something that is wrong, or even sinful. For the purpose of this study, the Bible will be used as the foundation of this subject.

In His own words, Almighty God stated that He hated certain people and His son, Jesus Christ, made similar comments,

'I (Almighty God) have loved you (Israel)', says the Lord. Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' 'Was not Esau Jacob's brother?' says the Lord. 'Yet Jacob I have loved; but **Esau I have hated**, and laid waste his mountains and his heritage for the jackals of the wilderness' (Mal. 1:2-3; cf. Rom. 9:13; Ed. notes in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV throughout unless noted).

And great multitudes went with him (Jesus Christ). And he turned and said to them, '**If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother**, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple** (Lk. 14:25-26; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, **which thing I (Christ) hate** (Rev. 2:15; emphasis added).

Without further elaboration these statements seem to make God and His son, Jesus Christ, hypocritical because they appear to contradict many other scriptures,

You shall not hate your brother in your heart (Lev. 19:17a; cf. 1Jn. 1:9, 11).

If you meet your enemy's ox or his donkey going astray, you shall surely bring it back to him again. If you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden, and you would refrain from helping it, you shall surely help him with it (Ex. 23:4-5).

But I (Christ) say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you (Mt. 5:44; cf. Mt. 18:21-22; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The question that has to be considered at this point is whether it is possible to love someone and hate them at the same time? Put another way, can God love an individual while hating what they represent because of the evil things they are doing to themselves and others?

The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves **violence His soul hates** (Ps. 11:5; Emphasis added).

**You** (Christ) have loved righteousness and **hated lawlessness** (Heb. 1:9a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

As Almighty God had to watch his son Jesus Christ die an agonizing death in order to make salvation possible for all who have sinned, it would seem strange if God did not love those that Christ died for (cf. Jn. 1:29; Eph. 2:4-5). However, while people are living in a state of sin, it is logical that He hates what they are doing and what they represent, and in that sense He hates them. This is the case regarding God's hatred of Esau,

...Lest there be any fornicator (SGD 4205 – a man who indulges in unlawful sexual intercourse; a male prostitute) or profane (godless) person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright (Heb. 12:16; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Like all sinners, Esau will have an opportunity in the second resurrection to repent of the sins that were committed during his previous lifetime (cf. Rev. 20:4-6). Until that occurs all sinners, and what they represent, are an abomination to God which is the reason for such a harsh word like "hate" being applied to them.

Although God is able to love someone while hating them at the same time for their evil deeds, it is not any easy task for human beings to maintain this perspective. Instead, it is natural for us to hate anyone who does something against us, our family, or our friends. The ability to love someone while they are causing us grief, or harm, is quite a challenge. To assist those who want to love their enemies while hating the evil they may be doing, God has given some important advice and insight,

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly (spirit) places (Eph. 6:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In this last scripture, God is pointing out that evil deeds are more often than not the result of individuals being influenced by the thoughts and values of the fallen host (cf. Eph. 2:1-3). So although we may get angry at the people who might be making our lives painful or difficult, it is important to bear this truth in mind. Many of God's people have been aware of this and they responded in a very positive manner even though they were under siege,

And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, '**Lord, do not charge them with this sin.**' And when he had said this, he fell asleep (Ac. 7:59-60; emphasis added).

Part of the influence of the fallen host includes lies and deception so that people can be committing heinous crimes and yet believe they are doing what is just (cf. Jn. 8:44). The individual who became known as the apostle Paul was responsible for killing some of Christ's followers, including Stephen,

Now Saul (who later became known as Paul) was consenting to his (Stephen's) death (Ac. 8:1a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison (Ac. 8:3).

When Saul was converted and became known as Paul, it would have been extremely difficult for church members, who had lost loved ones because of his actions, to fellowship with him. Now they would have to welcome him rather than hate him. This would have been a tremendous trial for some brethren. Again, it would have been extremely important for everyone in the early church to keep in mind that the fallen host can influence the thoughts of people so that they think they are doing what is right,

These things I (Christ) have spoken to you (disciples) that you should not be made to stumble. They (those who believe they are righteous) will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service (Jn. 16:1-2; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is important to bear in mind that the fallen host cannot make someone sin, but they are able to influence attitudes and if these attitudes are not brought under control they will lead to hatred, and even murder in some cases. This thought process is revealed through the action Cain took against his brother, resulting in the murder of Abel,

Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well (as you were instructed regarding the law of offerings), will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for (toward) you, but you should rule over it' (Gen. 4:4-7; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Cain was upset or offended because his offering was rejected. He was given an opportunity to repent and present his offering as prescribed by God. He was told plainly that if he did this he would be accepted. Instead, he harbored jealousy or envy toward Abel. Because he did not work to resolve this jealousy and envy toward his brother, it quickly developed into hatred. This hatred grew to the point where he lost control and killed his brother in a fit of rage (cf. Gen. 4:8). Whenever feelings of jealousy, envy, or self-pity occur, they need to be dealt with before they lead to hate for another person. In this example, Cain did not hate Abel because Abel was sinning. Instead, Abel was doing what was right (cf. Heb. 11:4). Therefore, Cain's hatred was a reflection of Satan's attitude because Satan has no time for anyone who is seeking to follow God's law and commandments. The result of living in accordance with Satan's values is described in the following scriptures,

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, **hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath** (anger), **selfish ambitions**, dissensions, heresies, **envy, murders**, drunkenness, revelries, and the like ... (Gal. 5:19-21a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Hatred for evil and sinful practices is a positive trait but hatred against someone who is trying to obey God needs to be repented of quickly; otherwise it could lead to more serious consequences. Jesus Christ was murdered by those who hated him even though he did nothing against the law and commandments of his heavenly Father,

But this happened (murder of Christ) that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, **'They hated me (Christ) without a cause'** (Jn. 15:25; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

So God hates those who live contrary to His law and commandments, but at the same time he loves them so much that he gave up His son, Jesus Christ, to show how serious the consequences of sin are, and how much He wants to rescue everyone from the result of their sins, which is everlasting death,

'Come now, and 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 be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel you shall be devoured by the sword' (Isa. 1:18-20b).

As strange as it may sound and as difficult as it may be, God's people can hate anyone who persists in living contrary to His law and commandments, even if those people include father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters (cf. Mt. 14:25-27). However, this hatred will not manifest itself in the same manner as Cain's. Instead, it should be a motivation and reminder to pray and fast for those who live contrary to the will of God, including those who might cause harm to others (Mt. 5:44; Lk. 6:28).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

To protect the integrity of this document and prevent alteration and misapplication of its contents in whole or in part, this document is protected under copyright law.

Copyright: This document may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied without alteration, addition, deletion, or charges, and includes the name of the publisher and this copyright. Quotations may be taken from this document provided the name of the publisher is cited.

All Rights Reserved

(Copyright ©1truth1law.com 2013)