How to Hate

Healing Our Hearts With Hatred
March 17, 2024

Today we're talking about hating the sin right out of our heart!

So here's the question to end all questions: Do you hate hell? Do you?



We think of hell as a destination: an end. But we rarely consider its origination: where it begins. And I hate to break it to you, but hell starts in our hearts. Know how I know? Cuz, as Noah showed us last week:



The mouth speaks what the heart is full of. – Luke 6:45 NIV

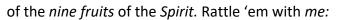
Said another way: the tongue spills that which fills the heart.



And the tongue is a fire ... and is set on fire by hell. – James 3:5-6 NAS



So, the *real question* is: **Do you** *hate* hell *enough* to *extinguish* it in your *heart?* Noah talked about the need to "guard your heart, because everything flows from it". (Prov 4:23) And how "no *good tree* bears *bad fruit*" and how "each tree is recognized by its *fruit*". (Lk 6:43-44) And he *rattled* off Paul's *list*





The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. – Galatians 5:22-23 NIV



But I don't think those are the *nine fruits* of the *Spirit*. I think there's *one fruit*: "love". Which is *expressed* in *eight ways*. I don't like that comma after love; there's no punctuation in the original. And I think it should read: "The fruit of the Spirit is love" *colon*; and then the *breakdown* of the *eight fruits* of *love*. Because, in the 'love chapter' in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul pretty much does that for us. Saying:



Love is <u>patient</u>, [there's <u>patience</u>] love is <u>kind</u>. [There's <u>kindness</u>] It <u>does not envy</u>, it <u>does not boast</u>, [and] it <u>is not proud</u>. [Why? It's at <u>peace</u>] It is <u>not rude</u>, [there's <u>gentleness</u>] it is <u>not self-seeking</u>, it is <u>not easily angered</u>, [and] it <u>keeps no record of wrongs</u>. [Now <u>there's self-control</u>] Love <u>does not delight in evil</u> [there's <u>goodness</u>] but <u>rejoices with the truth</u>. [There's <u>joy</u>] It <u>always protects</u>, <u>always trusts</u>, <u>always hopes</u>, [and] <u>always perseveres</u>. [And there's <u>faithfulness</u>] – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

And when Noah sat down after his message, he whispered, "Did you know the fruit of the Spirit lines up with Paul's definition of love in Corinthians?" And I whispered, "No. I didn't. And I'm totally stealing that for my next message!" So if he uses it next Sunday, pretend you haven't already heard it. It was a great message last Sunday, and when Noah said that God will shake our tree so we can see the fruit that falls out, I knew the story I'd have to tell.

Months ago, Comcast replaced the cable into our house; and I gave 'em permission to string a temporary cable in our crawl space. But weeks later, when I went under the house, the so called temporary cable was still there – strung tightly and directly across the only access door! So I slithered under it with hate in my heart. So many times. Until two weeks ago, when I gave it an angry yank to move it out of the way, and it went slack. And I saw it was severed.



And I went in the house. And turned on the TV. And no signal. So I call Comcast. And I tell the robot lady the problem, and she says "I'd like to run a 15-minute diagnostic, will you please wait." I yell, "No. The coax cable is severed." But she ignores me, several times, determined to run her diagnostic. And I'm yelling into the phone: "NO! I know the problem! I cut the cable! Come fix it!" Suddenly a human man with a heavy accent says, "Thank you for your patience putting up with the automation." Uh-oh. I think my yelling triggered something! And I feel really guilty. It hadn't been a human, but so much hate had been spilling out of my heart! So now I'm on my best guilt-ridden behavior with this Comcast human.

Because *patience* is a *choice* and a *decision*. And I gotta say, I was the *picture* of *patience* for the 40 most frustrating minutes of *either* of our *lives!* It starts when he wants to confirm that the severed cable has disabled our TV, internet, and phone. To which I say, "Well, not the phone." "How do you know?" "Because I'm talking to you on it." ... "That is not possible." We then proceed to go through several that-is-not-possibles. Like, "Check the bedroom TV." "It's working." "Check the main TV again." "Still no signal." "That is not possible." But he finally *solves* it. Turns out the cable under the house *was* temporary. Like I was *told*. I should've removed it rather than slither under it. And when I checked the TV, it had "coincidentally" been left on the one and only channel that, for whatever reason, wasn't receiving a signal from my cable box. Which the robot lady would've told me if I'd allowed her to run her diagnostic! And all it took was a push of the reset button! So, feeling very sheepish and repentant, I thanked the man profusely. And *here's* the *payoff*. I wrote down his words as soon as we hung up, so I could quote him correctly. Because he said, "No sir. I thank YOU for being my best customer. If I could rate YOU, I'd give you more than perfect. So you will be my *role model*. God *bless* you!" Now I just need to be *my* role model!

You see, I started off hating all of the wrong things. But I didn't stop hating; what changed – and what then empowered my patience – was the object of my hate. Because, I turned my hatred toward my sin. And in that moment, I hated my impatience with a passion! Noah reminded us that the only choice we have when we're shaken, is how we choose to respond. Because it's a choice and a decision. Because that's it's purpose. Because it's our big God-given opportunity to see if we're growing in the love that leads to life – both here and now, and forever after! And it's really, really easy to tell what your heart is full of, because:

Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. - 1 John 4:21 NIV



Because, if the *love* of the *Lord* is taking *root* in our *heart*, it *can't* not *grow* in our *life* as *love* for *others*. Therefore, and *all* the *more*:

You who love the Lord, hate evil! - Psalm 97:10 NKJ



But, it's not enough to just hate evil. So:

Hate evil, [and] love good; - Amos 5:15 NKJ



[Because] God created Man in His own image ... male and female He created them. ... [And] God saw all that He had made, and it was <u>very good</u>. – Genesis 1:27, 31 NIV



And [that's why] the Lord spoke to Moses, saying ... "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, [but without the hellish hatred] lest you incur sin because of him. [And] You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge ... but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. – Leviticus 19:1, 17-18 ESV



[So] If anyone says, "I love *God*," and *hates* his brother, he is a [great big, pants-on-fire] *liar*; for he who does *not love* his brother whom he has seen *cannot* love God whom he has not seen. — 1 John 4:20 ESV

[But] Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? [asks David] And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? [And the surprising answer is: Yes, I do! But] I hate them with perfect hatred; [and, only in this perfect way do] I count them my enemies. [So] Search me, O God, and know my heart; [Cuz "The heart is deceitful ... and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jer 17:9) So] try me, and know my anxieties; and [let's] see [what falls out of that tree, and] if there is any wicked way in me, and [if there is, then] lead me in the [opposite] way everlasting. — Psalm 139:21-24 NKJ

So, what in the world is "perfect hatred"?! Well, David writes:

Consider my enemies, for ... they hate me with cruel hatred. - Psalm 25:19 NKJ

All who hate me whisper together against me ... [and] they devise my hurt. – Psalm 41:7 NKJ

[Whereas] I hate every false way. — Psalm 119:104 NKJ

I hate the work of those who fall away; - Psalm 101:3 NKJ

[Because] A righteous man hates lyING [but not the liAR] — Proverbs 13:5 NKJ

[Which is why] I hate and abhor lyING, but I love Your law. — Psalm 119:163 NKJ

Which says: "You shall not hate your brother in your heart". And about this, Jesus said:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [Huh?] But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you — Matthew 5:43-44 NIV

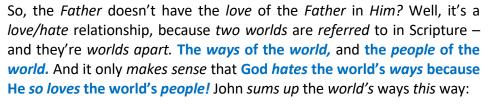
Is Jesus correcting Scripture? No. He's correcting those who pick and choose from God's Word in a wicked way that distorts God's heart. They took Moses' command to "love your neighbor" but left off "not hating your brother in your heart", and took David's comments about hating his enemies, with no mention of "perfect hatred" that rightly distinguishes sin from sinner. And they twisted it into "love your neighbor and hate your enemy". So Jesus ends with a reminder to:

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect". (Mt 5:48) But, then again, John says:

If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. – 1 John 2:15 NIV

[But then] "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son" – John 3:16 NIV







For everything in the world— [be it] the lust of the flesh, [what we desire to do] the lust of the eyes, [what we desire to have] and the pride of life [boasting of what we have and do]—comes not from the Father but from the [way of the] world. – 1 John 2:16-17 NIV



[Which is why] [There is] a time to *tear down* and a time to *build* ... a time to *be silent* and a time to *speak*, [and] a *time* to *love* and a *time* to *hate* – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NIV



[And this one time] [Jesus] made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area ... [and] scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. [Cuz it was time] – John 2:15 NIV

[Because] He who hates correction will die. [And] Hell and Destruction are before the Lord; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men. – Proverbs 15:10-11 NKJ

A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. - Proverbs 18:7 NKJ

[David said] [My soul is among] the sons of men who are set on fire – Psalm 57:4 NKJ

For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction - Psalm 5:9 NKJ

[Which is why] They sharpen their tongues like a serpent – Psalm 140:3

"You serpents ... how will you escape the sentence of hell?" – Matthew 23:33 NAS

You love evil more than good, [Who does?] lying rather than speaking righteousness. [Who?] You love all devouring words, [You who?!] You deceitful tongue. — Psalm 52:3-5 NKJ

Uh-oh. Let's hate that enemy serpent! Cuz although there's a time to love and a time hate, there's never a time to let hate infiltrate our heart. So let's heal our hearts by hating what God hates the way God hates. Focusing on the sin within. And if you truly hate the hellish hate within, then:

[Let all] evil speaking be put away from you – Ephesians 4:31 NKJ

[Because] Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it [whether it be the life-giving or life-taking type] will eat its fruit. – Proverbs 18:21 NAS

Because, after all is said and done, it's an obvious choice and a simple, albeit eternal, decision.

Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.