

# 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 of the *nine fruits* of the *Spirit*. Rattle 'em with me:



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 *patient*, [there's *patience*] love is *kind*. [There's *kindness*] It *does not envy*, it *does not boast*, [and] it is not *proud*. [Why? It's at *peace*] It is *not rude*, [there's *gentleness*] it is *not self-seeking*, it is *not easily angered*, [and] it *keeps no record of wrongs*. [Now there's *self-control*] Love *does not delight in evil* [there's *goodness*] but *rejoices with the truth*. [There's *joy*] It *always protects*, *always trusts*, *always hopes*, [and] *always perseveres*. [And there's *faithfulness*] – 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* its *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 *very good*. – 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



So, the *Father* doesn't have the *love* of the *Father* in *Him*? Well, it's a *love/hate* relationship, because *two worlds* are referred to in Scripture – and they're *worlds apart*. **The ways of the world**, and **the people of the world**. And it only makes sense that **God hates the world's ways because He so loves the world's people!** John sums up the world's ways this way:



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**.