

HATE SIN!

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Eph 5:1 – “Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

God wants us to walk in love - to exercise and practice love.

That love is a love for God, who first loved us.

Romans 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

And for Jesus who died for us:

John 14:15 - “If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

And our fellow man

1 John 4:21 – “And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”

But that love for God also requires that we HATE!
Well Ed, where'd you come up with THAT!?

Psalms 97:10 – “Ye that love the LORD, hate evil:”

Proverbs 8:13 – “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

Yet we never talk of this. We talk of love, but rarely talk of hate.

I think we need to hate more. Does that disturb you? Do you think it's *wrong* for Christians ever to hate? Then carefully consider this lesson because hate is **essential** to our salvation! If we don't hate, as the Lord has told us, then verily it **will** be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for us to enter heaven. The Lord told us this through the apostle Jude:

Jude 1:22,23 - “And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”

A keyword here is “compassion” - our care and love for others. We must have it and if we really care about others, we will **not** want them to be hurt.

If we REALLY love, how then will we feel about the things which hurt others? We'll **hate** them! And what is more hurtful than sin?

Sin is the one human ailment that is 100% fatal in all that have it. Yet it is 100% treatable **IF** we have compassion enough to apply the treatment – the word of God.

Romans 1:16,17 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

But for that Gospel to reach people, it's up to the **church** to get it out there.

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We must **care** enough for people to pull them from the fire!
Do we have that strong a reaction to sin?
If not – ask yourself, do we really care? Do we really love them?

I was burning leaves one time in a pit in our back yard. David, my son was 5 or 6 and riding his bicycle around, and as boys do, managed to fall into the fire. The next thing we both knew, he was flying through the air. Without thinking I had snatched him from the fire and stripped his burning coat off him.

We must treat **sin** the same way. We must **hate** it and **abhor** it *so much* that without thinking we thrust it from us, or reach out to others to snatch them from it.

We must be so aware, with every bit of our being, of the evil and deadly nature of sin that we **reflexively** react to save ourselves and others from it.

This is essential for **our** salvation! We **must** hate sin. We must abhor evil:

Romans 12:9 “*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.*”

God pointed out that our love must be without **dissimulation** – acting differently than we should – **faking** it!. And love **WILL** abhor evil for what it does to people. How can it not??

Are we dissimulating? Are we faking it? Are we saying we love God, but NOT hating sin?

If we are dissimulating, then we aren't the children of God because God hates sin. Jesus told us this:

Revelation 2:6 - “**But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**”

He didn't hate the Nicolaitans, but he **did hate** their sin!
And He **commended** the church at Ephesus for this.

God cannot have sin in his presence, and if we have sin, He will not, cannot receive us.

This is of such paramount importance, that Jesus had to **die** in order for us to be cleansed of our sins.

Sin necessitated Christ's cruel death on the cross. Can we then think so little of sin so as **not** to hate it?

Now here's the deadly part -

Hebrews 3:12,14 – “**Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;**”

If we don't hate sin and abhor evil, then we'll find ourselves tolerating sin in our brothers and sisters—**not** hating the garment spotted by the flesh.

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And then, we'll find **ourselves** accepting sin in ourselves.
That's why the Lord warned us:

Eph 5:11 - "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*."

This is the deceitfulness of sin – it grows like a cancer. It beguiles and deceives.
And it must be treated quickly – while it is called Today!

Sin will keep us from God and Christ – we won't be partakers of Christ, unless we make it to the end – without sin! This is summarized here:

1 John 1:8,9 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

We might say we have no sin – but that is the deceitfulness of sin talking.
That is why it must be **pointed** out to us.

Jeremiah 17:9,10 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, ..."

If our sin is pointed out to us by those who hate sin enough, and have compassion enough to tell us, **then** we can confess our sins and be forgiven.

But if we tolerate sin, not hating it vehemently as God does, then guess what:
We will die, and our brothers and sisters will die – and it will be **OUR** fault, for not warning them.

Ezekiel 3:17-19 - "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. 18When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 19Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."

We must **know** that God hates sin so absolutely and so implacably—so we will strive to keep sin out of our lives, and out of the lives of our brothers and sisters.

That is why this hate, this hatred of sin is **essential**, for without it; we'll have a lackadaisical, ho-hum, not really important, tolerant attitude towards sin.

And that is the deceitfulness of sin and Satan.
We'll fool ourselves into thinking that God feels this way too. And this will kill us. We'll not work to pull our brothers and sisters from sin, as God has **commanded** us to do, and many in the church will die—if we don't **HATE SIN!!**

We must always be aware and watchful for sin:

Eph 5:15 - "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,"

Circumspectly – look all around ... for what?

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1 Peter 5:8 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

And what is Satan’s tool? How does he devour us, consume us? Through our DESIRES that are contrary to God. The things of the world and pride of life - what we lust after.

James 1:15 - “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”

How do we get rid of our sin?

1 John 1:8,9 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

But it’s more than just confession of our sins isn’t it.

Jesus had to die on that cross to redeem us from our sins.

And we have to have faith too don’t we?

Hebrews 11:6 - “But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

And how do we show our faith? By merely stating a belief? No...

James 2:19,20 - “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

True faith will EVIDENCED, SHOWN by our obedience, as Jesus told us:

Mark 16:15,16 - “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Baptism is the ANSWER, it’s how we say “YES LORD I BELIEVE!” It is the answer required by God, coming from our conscience of sin, the right, repentant, obedient mind, to the Gospel call of Christ:

1 Peter 3:21 - “The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

Baptism puts us INTO Christ

Galatians 3:26,27 – “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

If we sin after we’ve been baptized, then he is faithful and just to forgive our sins if we confess them to him. Come now!