

LOVE OR HATE – PART 2

I. CHRISTIANS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE HATED

- A. Christians will be hated throughout the church age. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7, Acts 14:22
- B. A Christian is hated because he is not of this world. John 15:19, John 17:14, 1 Peter 4:1-5
- C. A Christian is persecuted for the Lord's sake, for His name and glory. Be thankful that you can suffer for the Lord; and remember that suffering results in eternal blessing. Matthew 5:11
- D. Being hated results from being godly, particularly from sharing the truth. 2 Timothy 3:12
- E. The world that hates you is an ungodly world, a world of unbelievers, seen in the government, the media, businesses, the schools, and in the media. 1 John 4:4
- F. The persecution in this country is getting worse, and will get worse. Luke 21:12-19
- G. This hate is part of the larger spiritual battle that's against the Christians. Acts, Psalms
- H. Your response to hate and persecution: you are to love the lost, pray for them, and share the gospel with them. Romans 12:19-21, Luke 6:27-28

II. THE CHRISTIAN IS TO BE LOVING - 1 John 3:14

- A. Loving people means that you have a special God-given affection in your heart for them. Love is shown in specific ways – kindness, compassion, patience, gentleness, forgiveness, etc.
- B. Loving others gives you a strong assurance of your salvation – “*oidate*”, not “*ginosko*.”
- C. A Christian has passed from death to life. You were justified - you were forgiven – you were born again - you became a child of God at a particular point in time. Just as you had a physical birthday, so too you had a spiritual birthday. John 5:24, Colossians 1:13

III. THE UNBELIEVER, THE NON-CHRISTIAN, THE CHILD OF THE DEVIL – 1 John 3:14-15

- A. The unbeliever abides and remains in death, spiritual death, that is.
- B. Death is not cessation, not ceasing to exist, but separation. Physical death is when the soul is separated from your body, and spiritual death is when your soul is separated from God. The unsaved person has no spiritual life in him. Ephesians 2:1-5

C. The unbeliever does not and cannot love in a godly way, an agape way, a spiritual way. All he can do is hate. If a person does not love, then he hates – there is no middle ground. He has not been forgiven, and so he cannot forgive. 1 John 2:9-11, 4:19

D. The unbeliever is a murderer. According to Jesus, being angry with someone is the same as murdering them. Anger is painful and can be relationally, emotionally, and spiritually killing. Matthew 5:21-23

E. The unbeliever does not have eternal life, God's life in him. He will remain spiritually dead, and then be cast into hell, a real and most terrible place of punishment, unless he repents and turns to Christ for mercy. 1 John 3:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Luke 13:1-5

IV. HOW WE ARE TO LOVE - 1 John 3:16-18

A. Like Jesus Christ, we are to lay down our life for others. John 15:11

B. True love, real love, godly love is laying down your life – it is not just godly words, but it is godly actions. It is sacrifice, giving what we have to others. Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:17

C. Love is seen in that we live for others, that we give to others, serve others, care for others, pray for others, encourage others, help others, and sacrifice for others.

DO NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT,
BUT WITH HUMILITY OF MIND REGARD ONE ANOTHER
AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES...
HAVE THIS ATTITUDE IN YOURSELVES
WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS.

Philippians 2:3

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. How are you hated, and how can you be hated as a Christian?
3. How are you to respond when you are hated, when you are persecuted?
4. Why is it so important that you have assurance and confidence as a Christian?
What are some of the ways that you can have this assurance?
5. What does it mean for the unbeliever to abide in death? What does it look like now and in the future?
6. What does it mean that the unbeliever hates, that he is a murderer, that he is a child of the devil?
7. How are we to love? Think specifically how you can love others that God puts in your life.