

So That You May Know

An Expository Study of the Epistle of **1 John**

Chapter 14- The Second Line **1John 3:11-18**

117. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 1

WAOY Wednesday 12/05/07

Welcome again, my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the Epistle of **1John**, and today I want to begin a new section of our study and look at what John taught about "The Distinction Between Love and Hate"- so let's read **1John 3:11-18** together:

11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

Now over the last several broadcasts- we were looking at the first line that John drew in the sand- the distinction between Sin and Righteousness. And on today's broadcast- I want to look at the second line that John drew- and that line is the distinction between Love and Hate.

Now because the true meaning of the word, “love” has been so abused in our modern language- this distinction that the Apostle makes in these 8 verses has never been more important than it is now.

During the 1960’s in this country- we had an explosion of cultural conflicts that is the foundation of what we call today- the “culture war”. During the sixties- we had people who espoused what they called “love” and silly, meaningless statements like “*Make Love- Not War*” began to spring up all over the country.

This was the time when spoiled young people who were raised in luxury and wealth and freedom began to take to the streets to protest everything from the Vietnam War to Political Conventions. And it was during this time- that the word, “Love” became a byword- a code word that meant whatever the user wanted it to mean.

For example, in the name of “love” protesters burned down colleges. In the name of “love” young people began to smoke pot and get high on LSD and drop out of school. In the name of “love” people began to shack up and live together outside of marriage so they could have orgies and free sex.

Under the banner of this so-called “love” people began to promote Communism and Socialism and they began to idolize brutal and evil men like Fidel Castro and Che Guavare and Mao Tse Dung and Ho Chi Mihn- who were responsible for murdering millions of people.

Songs like “*Hello, I love you won’t you tell me your name*” and “*If you can’t be with the one you love- love the one your with*” and “*All you need is love*” and others correctly captured the “Age of Aquarius” which was another code word for a time when life was easy and sex was free.

Free expression and individual freedom was promoted as being the highest of all virtues- even if those things helped to tear down the very fabric of society. Really, the only thing that young people agreed on back then was that their parents were stupid; and the United States was evil; and God was dead; and so any restrictions on behavior in any way was a bummer.

Men grew their hair out so they could rebel against order and established rules. Women became promiscuous so they could show their parents how free they were.

And all of this was done in the name of “love”. But in reality- this was not love at all- it was the most visible and flagrant display of hate that this country had ever seen. It was hate in that it deceived young

men to waste their lives and became addicted to drugs. It was hate in that sexually transmitted diseases became an epidemic. You could see the results of this hate in the sad expressions and empty souls of millions of people who bought into the lie to turn on tune in and drop out.

And that generation- the generation who got high and rebelled- is the generation that runs this country today. The generation that denied God and embraced evil men is the generation who is in charge of our country today and who makes the great decisions that we are so troubled about today.

But the so-called “love” that they sang so much about and that they talked so much about and that they tried so hard to put into practice was all a lie- and it deceived them and it ruined them and it warped them and it is still doing great damage 50 years later.

And that is because these people changed the definition of what love really is; they warped the true meaning of love and they redefined what love is what love does. So after 50 years of incorrectly defining love and using this word wrongly- we must stop and consider what true love actually is and we must learn what action true love takes.

Now the word “love” and its true meaning- like all things- is best defined by God- not Man. And the only place to find God’s definition of anything is to turn to the pages of inspired sacred Scripture- for Scripture is the Word of God and it is the Voice of God in the earth today.

So God the Holy Spirit moved upon the Apostle John to pen down these inspired Scriptures that we just read- which gives us the clear distinction between true love and hate.

In this passage – John gives us the origin, nature, and practical consequences of both love and hate. It is in these verses that we will find that hate originates from the devil and the manifestation of hate proves that those who hate are in alignment with satan. Conversely, John’s words here will also show us that love originates with God and that those who manifest true genuine love are in alignment with Jesus Christ.

Hate is visibly expressed in things like self- centeredness and self- fulfillment, self-esteem and self-gratification-. while love is visibly expressed in self- sacrifice and denying self and in giving to others. And the great difference between these two extremes- love and hate- are

what John deals with in these eight verses. So let's begin to examine John's second line that he draws in the sand – the great distinction between love and hate.

First of all- we need to review why John wrote this Epistle to begin with. **1John** was written to define what true, genuine Christianity is and what it is not. This is the Epistle that clearly articulates the difference between those who are saved and those who are lost.

Now many people in the modern Church have trouble with making a clear distinction between that which is holy and that which is profane and the reason why these people have a problem with it- is not because it isn't in the Bible- because it is. No, they have a problem with making this distinction because they have allowed the lost world to define right and wrong rather than the Word of God.

For example- many people today think that because American liberty allows us to do almost whatever we want to in this country- and however we want to do it- that God functions the same way. But He doesn't. Christianity is an already established defined body of Teaching that has already been articulated. And if we are genuine believers- then we struggle real hard by the Power of the Holy Spirit to change the way *we* think and the way that *we* believe and the way that *we* live so that we may fit into the already established Truth of Christianity. But we never seek to change Christianity to fit us.

Nobody has the right or the authority to redefine or recreate Christianity into something that suits them better. We are commanded to learn and to be taught and to love and to obey and to proclaim the once and for all given to the saints Faith that we find in the Bible and not make it up as we go along.

Now even though what I just is true- many people today find what I just said to be very restrictive on their lifestyle and they will scream out, "legalism" or say that it is narrow minded or bigoted or mean spirited or dictatorial or autocratic. And these people will get real angry when these things are taught. But they forget that I didn't make up these rules, beloved. I, along with you, am simply loving Jesus and doing my best to be faithful to my Lord. I didn't set up Christianity. God never even consulted with me about what He wrote in the Bible.

God used Moses and David and Jeremiah and Daniel and others to write down inspired Scripture that we have in the Old Covenant and God used Peter and Paul and James and John and others to pen down

inspired Words which make up the Books of the New Covenant. Blair wasn't even invited to participate in the formulation of Christianity- but I am called to properly preach and teach it.

Now toward the end of the first century- during the time that John was writing this Epistle- Greek philosophers and Gnostic mystics had infiltrated the Church and were teaching things contrary to what Jesus had given to the Apostles.

So, John had the duty and obligation as one of the founding fathers of Christianity to set the record straight. The Greeks were teaching the heresy of the Antinomians- that a person could be saved and live any way he wanted to- while the Gnostics were teaching that you could love God while not loving other people who were saved. John taught that both groups were wrong and that both groups were not true representatives of what a born again believer was.

Let me show you how important this was to John. Back in **John 16:13**- Jesus told John and Peter and the rest of the Apostles that He was going to ascend into Heaven send back the Comforter- Who is the Holy Spirit- to live inside them and dwell with them forever. And one of the functions that Jesus promised that God the Holy Spirit was going to do in those men was **“guide you into all truth”**.

Now many people today have taken that verse to mean that the Holy Spirit will guide all believers into Truth. But that Promise was made specifically to the Apostles. And after Jesus ascended into Heaven- John and Peter and Paul and the rest of the Apostles were in fact moved upon by the Holy Spirit to pen down the 21 New Testament Epistles. And these Books are the final, completed and finished Revelation of God to Man. All Christian Theology and Doctrine is contained in these 21 Books. In addition these Books give us the correct interpretation of what the Old Testament writings meant by what they said and these Books also give clarity and finality to all that was written in the four Gospel accounts.

So what is written down in these 21 Epistles is the Apostles Doctrine and it is these Books which created and established Christianity in the earth. And as I have told you before- Christianity was *not* set up by building buildings. Christianity was established in the earth by the Apostles through the formulation and creation of Christian Doctrine and Theology contained in the 21 New Testament Epistles.

For example- we know how man is saved and how God converts the human soul and we know about the Person of Jesus Christ and what His death, burial and Resurrection meant and how to run the Church and who is qualified to lead in the Church all from what God gave the Apostles in the 21 Epistles.

So if you monkey around with what the Bible teaches about these issues- you distort or outright destroy the Church because you have *redefined* Biblical concepts and taught them in a way that God did not authorize.

So any alteration of anything in these Books by anybody was viewed by the Apostles as an attack by satan against the Church of Jesus Christ and when that happened- because sadly it did happen- these men- these Apostles- saw the need to counteract what the devil was doing by refuting false teaching and heresy.

Now it is hard for us today to see what the big deal was because we are so laid back and because Sound Doctrine is not nearly so valuable to us as it was to them- but you must understand dear friends- that when you alter the words of Scripture or you alter the meaning of those words- in effect- you change what Christianity is.

So John wrote this Epistle to counteract what the Greeks philosophers and the Gnostic mystics were teaching so that God's people would have a clear understanding of what true Christianity is and is not and who was genuinely saved and who was deceived.

And part of that clarification is here before us in these eight verses. John is teaching here the great contrast between genuine love and hate and he is teaching that saved people manifest godly love while unsaved people manifest hate.

Well, I have to stop right here, but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of **1John**. May God help us all.

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