

# So That You May Know

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

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

#### 123. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 7

---

WAOY Friday/Monday 12/14-17/07

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 continue to look at what John taught about "The Distinction Between Love and Hate". So, let's read **1John 3:11-18** again 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 as we continue our examination of these eight verses which gives us the great contrast between Love and hate- I want to look at verse 13 today- so let's read that verse again together:

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

Now in this verse- John is drawing a parallel to the hatred that Cain had toward Abel in verse 12 with the hatred that the lost world will have toward us. In this sense- Cain represents the lost world- and Abel represents the children of God.

The Bible teaches that it is the natural state of affairs for the children of the devil the devil to hate the children of God.

Many times the hatred that the children of the world have toward the will manifest itself in annoyance and insults and shunning and by verbal persecution. But there are occasions where the hatred that lost people have toward saved people will boil over into violence and the 2,000 year history of the Church is filled with stories of the martyrs of Jesus who are now crying out from under the mercy seat in Heaven.

All throughout time- God's people have been persecuted and had all their worldly possessions taken from them; they were beaten and whipped; they were beheaded and flayed alive; they were placed into the carcasses of dead animals and then thrown to the lions; they were sawn asunder and driven from city to city.

The writer of Hebrews gives us a very graphic account of many of the Old Testament martyrs in **Hebrews 11:32-40:**

**32** And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

**33** who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of righteousness*, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

**34** quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

**35** Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;

**36** and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

**37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

**38** (*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

**39** And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

**40** because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

I hear many times today that the reason that it is so hard for young people to serve God is because of peer pressure and I guess to some degree- they are right. But really and truly, dear friends- when has there *not* been peer pressure on young people? Peer pressure has *always* existed and always will exist- and not just about serving God. There is peer pressure about *every* aspect of life and so instead of trying to eliminate peer pressure- we just need to get stronger so that we can resist it. Deep, serious, consistent times of line upon line; precept upon precept studies of God's Word will strengthen us. Fervent and effectual prayer meetings will strengthen us. Times of godly fellowship with strong believers will strengthen us. So, since the Church is in the business of strengthening believers- then the Church should have these kinds of services so that the people of God will be strong enough to resist the pull of the world.

Conversely, entertainment does not and cannot strengthen anybody. You cannot receive spiritual strength through carnal methods- you simply can't get there from here. Jesus said in **John 3:6**

**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Now the word, "entertainment" comes from the Greek phrase "to tickle the ear" and was used all throughout the Middle East during the first century. Entertainment by definition is light, foolish, frivolous activity that is designed to make you laugh and to relax you and cause you to take it easy.

So entertainment by definition is not designed to encourage thought; nor does it bring forth any understanding of the deep, serious, important aspects of life or of God.

The opposite of entertainment is edification. Edification is designed by God to trouble you; to make you think. Edification is when we are confronted with Divine Truth and then profoundly disturbed by that

Truth enough to change. Entertainment causes you to laugh while edification causes you to be convicted.

We are the most entertained nation on earth. And I do not believe that it is a coincidence that we are also weakest nation on earth in terms of godly morality. I believe that there is a connection between the fact that we are so immersed in the world and our weakness to resist peer pressure.

We spend more time and more money on entertainment today than any generation of Americans in history and more than any other nation on earth.

We in the Church try to sanitize our entertainment and sanctify it by calling it “spiritual entertainment”- but it is still at best entertainment and is not edification.

Now I can just imagine that some of you will begin to roll your eyes at what I am saying and say, “*There he goes again!*”. But I want to draw your attention to a passage that I did not write and see if it makes sense to us. Lets’ turn in our Bibles to **2Timothy 4:1-5** and read what the Apostle Paul said about this issue:

**1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:**

**2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

**4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

**5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

Now Paul prophesied here that the time was coming that the people of the Church would not be able to even endure Sound Doctrine. Now the word “endure” means: to stand upright in. So Paul was saying here that there was a time coming when the people of the Church would not be able to stand upright under Sound Doctrine or in other words Sound, Biblical Truth would make them fall or collapse or be distasteful in their ears.

I believe that we are living in that day. Today we see almost anything going on in the Church except strong, serious teaching and learning of Sound Doctrine. In fact, many today see no reason to learn Sound Doctrine at all.

Doctrine; Sound, solid Biblical Truth was a requirement 100 years ago for anyone to hold the position of pastor or teacher and yet today we have unlearned men teaching other unlearn men whatever the dog drags through the front door. No wonder we are so weak and unprepared for persecution!

The mantra today is that if it is popular- then it must be of God; if there are a whole lot of people buying a book- then surely that book must be true and if a Church is growing by leaps and bounds and has lots of money in it- then that Church must be doing something right.

But none of this is true and none of this has ever been true. There is only one measurement that determines if a Church or a pastor or a people are right and that one single measurement is how faithful they are to Scripture- period.

But look what Paul said here. Not only will the people of the Church not be able to endure sound doctrine- but look what else will happen-

**... but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

Here is where that phrase, “itching ears” comes from. You see, when Sound Doctrine is not deemed to be important to a Church it is the direct result of entertainment taking its place. The more that we have entertainment in the House of God- the less tolerance we will have for godly serious times of edification through the teaching and preaching of Sound Doctrine. That is just the way that Paul said that it is.

But look what else happens.

**and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

When we *willingly* turn our ears away from the Truth- then an amazing thing happens. We are turned aside to myths. So, as we voluntarily turn our ears away from Truth- God sovereignly turns aside our ears to myths as judgment. We have the power and ability to do the

first thing- but the second thing is automatic and the result of the first thing and is beyond our control.

You see, the human mind is like a vacuum. If you reject one thing- something else will automatically replace it. When we shut off our ears from the Truth- then by default our hearts and minds will be turned aside to myths.

So, John is encouraging us here to grab the horns of the altar and become strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and do not marvel if the world hate you!

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.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America  
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from The New American Standard Bible © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse Journey through the Epistle of 1John. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.