

# So That You May Know

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

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

#### 122. Distinguishing Between Love and Hate- Part 6

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WAOY Thursday 12/13/07

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 on the last broadcast- we were going over verse 12 and today I want to continue to examine that verse. So, let's read **1John 3:12** again together:

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.

Now we must remember that in these eight verses- John is showing us the great contrast between true love and true hate. And in verse 12- John is giving us a very clear and compelling Old Testament example of what real hate is all about.

Now there is a very clear and easy to understand part of this verse and then there is a somewhat hidden message here. First of all- it is clear that Cain murdered his brother so the clear and easy message that we are to learn from this is that we are to know that murder is a sin and that murder is the result of hate and so anyone who murders is someone who hates.

But even though that is very basic and clear- we must take this Truth to a higher level. John goes further than to simply say than we must not murder other people. John equates *hating* with murder. Look again at verse 15:

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

John says here that anyone who hates another brother is a murderer and then John goes even further to explain that since that level of hate exists in the heart- that this proves that the person who hates is not saved. John absolutely teaches here that to hate is to murder and to hate proves that the one who hates does not have eternal life abiding in him.

Now I would guess that many of you would even say, “*Amen*” to that. But we have to go still further into this to see exactly what John was teaching here. The key to fully understanding this verse lies in the definition of the word, “hate”. The word that was translated into English here as “hate” is the Greek word, *miseo*, which has a special significance in John’s writings.

John teaches more about love and hate than any other Biblical writer and so if we are to understand what John is saying in this verse- we must understand John’s concept of both love and hate. So to begin to understand this- let’s turn to **John 3:20**:

**For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**

Now here John is quoting Jesus as Jesus was speaking with Nicodemus in his famous encounter in the third chapter of John. In this conversation- Jesus is confronting a self-righteous Pharisee with the reality of his own lost condition by telling him in no uncertain terms that all of his religious training and all of his keeping of rituals and all of his ceremonial washings have not brought Nicodemus any closer to God than a prostitute was and that Nicodemus himself had to be born again.

Then Jesus gives Nicodemus the bombshell in verse 20 by telling this ruler of the Jews that all men; every single human being on earth who is lost has within himself a hatred for Divine Truth. This hatred is profound; it runs deep; and it is pervasive in that it affects every area of human existence.

What Jesus was doing to Nicodemus here was to give him God's view of Man. This is called the Doctrine of Man and it is what God says about lost unregenerate human beings. All people- whether they are rich or poor; whether they are male or female; whether they are young or old; tall or short; educated or uneducated; cultured or uncultured- all human beings who are lost are living in a state of hostile rebellion toward God.

The Bible says that while our separation from God is total- that this separation is not neutral- but it is blatant; it is hostile; it is premeditated; it is with forethought and malice. Look at how God sees the condition of man by reading with me **Genesis 6:5**:

**Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**

Now there are some key words in this verse that we need to learn. Words like "great"; and "every"; and "only"; and "continually". God says here that fallen Man's wickedness was great. Now for something to be great means that it isn't small; it isn't immaterial; and it isn't unimportant. God says that the wickedness that is in the heart of every single human being born after the Fall was great.

But then God goes on to say more about the condition of the human heart. God says that *every* imagination- *all* of the imaginations; every single one of the inclinations of the heart of fallen man was in God's

Eyes “only” evil- meaning that is as never anything but evil- and it was “only evil” all the time.

Now this is serious and very harsh reality about the condition of the human heart that we all have to come to grips with. Now I realize that many don't believe what I just said. I fully am aware that what I just said is extremely unpopular today. But I can take great courage in the fact that when people call me heartless or mean spirited or cruel and unchristian- that they really didn't hear what I said because I didn't say that every single inclination of the human heart was only evil continually beloved- God Almighty said that.

And we have to decide that we are going to believe what the pagan world teaches about lost man or we are going to believe what Gods' Word teaches about lost man- but we cannot believe both because they are diametrically opposite to each other.

The world teaches that lost Man is born just fine and that what makes people to be “bad” or “good” are the choices that they make and the actions that they take. The world teaches that “bad” people are those who choose to do “bad” things and “good” people are those who choose to do “good” things.

So to the world- the goal is to teach people how to choose “good” things over “bad” things and thus through their own choices and through their own will power and through their own abilities- Man can cause himself to become “good”. And since “good” people go to Heaven- then those who through their own human strength choose and do “good” things can absolutely cause themselves to be saved thus go to Heaven.

And I would suppose that the overwhelming majority of all people on earth believe that. They believe that there is something “good” deep down inside everyone and that if could only figure out how to discover this inner “good’ and tap into it and release it- then we can live satisfied and fulfilled lives.

And of course there are many today who will tell you and show you just how to discover this inner “good’ and how to tap into it and how to release it- if only you will buy their books or their tapes or attend their seminars. And these books and tapes and seminars are the most popular things going on today across our country.

Our nations' Government has bought into this theory and laws are passed and money is allocated by our own Federal Government every day which is based upon the assumption that this theory is true. Our

public school system and most all of our major corporations and unfortunately- many of our Churches have also bought into this pagan and ungodly lie.

This theory is ancient. It has been around for about 6,000 years. And it is called by some, “Secular Humanism”; and by others, “Pelagianism”- but what it really should be called is satanic. This theory of fallen man that is so popular today and that attracts millions of people, and which is the dominant view of our Government and businesses and schools is in fact a lie and it is evil and it is completely contradictory to that which Scripture teaches and is in fact the enemy of Grace and of Biblical Salvation.

It is exactly the opposite of what God’s Word teaches and so it should be exposed for the lie that it is and should be rejected out of hand by all of those who love and serve Jesus Christ.

The Truth is that fallen Man is born sinful and he is born separated from God and he is born with a wicked nature and a wicked heart. And because that is true- every single imagination of his heart is only evil continually. Even those acts and deeds that we call “good” or that we call “noble” are in fact a result of fallen Man’s hostile rebellion toward God and are in fact an insult to God.

The Bible teaches that any action that is designed to make lost man feel good about himself is keeping that person from coming to a place of repentance- and that is not a good thing. Any deed that brings personal satisfaction to the heart of lost person- keeps that person content with being lost and is therefore not of God- even if we view that deed or action to be what we call “good”.

The Bible says that in his sinful condition- lost man is neither able nor willing to change his condition- we love our sin. Now we certainly don’t like many of the results of our sins- we don’t like to pay the fines or go to jail or hurt other people or get sick or lose our money or our reputation. No, we don’t like those things at all- but those things are the results of sin- and if we could figure out how to sin without suffering those results- we certainly would. In fact- history proves that every time that a so- called cure for the results of a particular sin is found- then that sin becomes much more popular.

The Bible teaches that what lies deep down inside of fallen man is sin- a wicked and evil heart that loves to devise new and creative methods to sin against God and that operates in a continual state of

hostile rebellion toward God. And the Bible calls that state of being- a condition of operating in hate. And the Bible teaches that for lost man to look inward to find Salvation is in fact for him to worship the pagan god of “self” which only causes him to fall further into sin and hatred toward God.

So John teaches here that for lost man to be saved- he must look *outside* himself; he must look upward *away* from himself and toward God. That no man has the power or even the inclination to love God- but that God has to love that man *first*- God has to choose that man *first*- and God has to give to lost fallen Man what lost man does not possess and cannot ever earn- which is the gift of love in order for him to be saved and delivered from his natural state of living and operating in hatred toward God.

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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