

THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – HATRED

TOPIC: HOW HATRED MANIFEST & BREAKING FREE FROM HATRED.

TEXT: I JOHN 3:15; LUKE 6:27; MATTHEW 5:43-44; 1 JOHN 4:20

INTRODUCTION

We are looking at hatred because it flows to the contrary of the graces of the Christian life and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

When Paul would list the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians he used a singular word, fruit. He began with love and then mentions nine other fruits.

It gives the impression that once you have love other fruits can really be manifest.

The irony of it then is that the absence of love is the absence of the nine fruits of the Spirit. The absence of the nine fruits of the Spirit is to make one not produce the fruit that project the Christian life at all.

The Bible generally condemns hatred, particularly hatred towards others, and emphasizes love, forgiveness, and reconciliation, while also suggesting that it is acceptable to hate evil and wickedness.

HOW DOES HATRED MANIFEST?

1. MURDER

The Bible says Cain killed Abel because he hated the fact that he got all the accolade, the respect, because his offering was pleasant to God. ***Genesis 4:8***

At its extremity it can result in destruction. The destruction of the other person's testimony and character assassination. Slander is spreading malicious rumours about someone. The root of such speech and action is usually hatred.

2. THREATS

The hateful spread their merchandise through threats.

- a. Hatred is intense animosity. It is the inability to cope with the presence of the other person, rejecting them totally for whatever they are and stand for.
- b. Hatred is being repugnant in behaviour because you cannot stand a person, people, place or a thing.
- c. It is so totally different from the Spirit of Christ and it is the manifestation of carnality - while the Bible says, that we should walk in the love of God.
- d. Hatred is in its extremity the carrying out of a feeling of dislike by doing something that will hurt the other person.
- e. Hatred may be because there is a loss particularly in relationship – a jilted lover, a woman who has been scorned by her husband. The man who was told the relationship was over may take his feeling to the extreme, express his anger at the woman who rejected him and possibly the man she went for.

- f. Hatred causes unwarranted pain. For the person who walks in hatred, they have no life. It is such a self-destructive and toxic emotion which clouds the way life is seen and how problems are handled.
 - It can lead to hate crimes. Law enforcement agents who have been gripped by unnecessary prejudice for other people have taken the law into their hands.
 - Hoodlums who feel superior to others have expressed their anger and hatred by punching them to pulp.
 - A disgruntled employee who feels that a certain boss was responsible for his sack could go on a campaign of calumny and destroy things even though he got it all wrong.
- g. Hatred is a spirit which destroys anything it touches. It is a powerful controlling strong man. Hatred separates brothers and makes them not to be able to see eye to eye anymore.
- h. Hatred is a violent reaction with devastating consequences. It can lead to bitterness which therefore means that the person under its grip is being eaten up from the inside.

3. BREAKING FREE FROM HATRED.

- a. You must repent from the feelings of revenge. God has said that vengeance is His. ***Deuteronomy 32:35.***
- b. Let your confidence be in God. Make room for men, know that they are likely to disappoint you because the best of men is still men at best. ***Psalms 7:1, Psalm 9:10***
- c. Do not allow your feelings to lead into foolish actions because when hatred is not stemmed, and you do not repent of it and bring it under the blood of Jesus, it could lead to other actions that can bring embarrassment. ***Proverbs 12:16***
- d. Recognise that there is an eternal consequence to every earthly action you carry out. ***Matthew 5:22***
- e. Give people abundant forgiveness. Always remember that forgiveness is a bridge upon which you must travel, either giving it to others or receiving it from others.
- f. Once you are unable to walk in the grace of forgiveness you make it difficult for God to show you one. ***Matthew 6:14, Luke 17:4.***
- g. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you develop the fruit called long suffering. ***Galatians 5:21-22***
- h. If you have love you cannot claim that your patience has been exhausted. ***I Corinthians 13:4***
- i. Treat hatred and all the other negative emotions that go with it like a cloak that you have worn and needs to be removed for the true beauty you carry to shine forth. ***Colossians 3:8, 2 Timothy 2:24.***

CONCLUSION

Jesus calls us to love our enemies, even those who hate us. We are not to have hate in our hearts for our brothers, neighbours, or enemies. Each person we encounter is loved and made in the image of God — even those who hate him. And if we truly love God, we will love His people, even if we disagree with them or don't particularly like them. There is still no room for hate.

We have talked of hatred as it is directed at other people but one of the worse is self-hatred. People have been known to hate their own face, race, grace or place in life.

Self-hatred results from an awareness of inadequacies or guilt. It is a strong dislike for yourself or for the actions you have carried out.

Finally, draw on the strength of God in the face of the temptation to behave like everyone would do. Remember God is able to give you the grace to will and to do His own good pleasure. ***2 Timothy 4:17-18.***