

A dramatic volcanic eruption at night. A bright, jagged lightning bolt strikes the ground, illuminating the scene. The sky is dark, and a massive plume of dark smoke or ash rises from the volcano. A shower of red lava sparks falls from the top of the frame, creating a dense curtain of fire. The ground is covered in glowing orange and red lava flows.

Holy Hatred

Holy Hatred

- We live in a world that misunderstands and misapplies hate.
 - We are told we should never hate anyone or anything.
 - Certain crimes have been designated as hate crimes

Holy Hatred

- We worship with disciples who misunderstand and misapply hate
 - There are some who believe that hate is sinful in all circumstances
 - There are some who believe that it is acceptable to rail endlessly about the sinners they hate.
 - There are some who justify their hates while judging the hates of others

Holy Hatred

- Then, there's what the Bible says about hate
 - We cannot truly love as we should without hating as we ought.
 - We must learn to hate the right things in the right manner.

Holy Hatred

- How does the Bible define hate? Hate is used in three ways:
 - A malicious and unjustifiable feeling toward others, whether toward the innocent or by mutual animosity.
 - 1John 3:15 - “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him”
 - “He who hates his brother is called a murderer, for the sin lies in the inward disposition of which the act is only the outward expression” (Vines)

Holy Hatred

- 1John 2:9-11 - “He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.”

Holy Hatred

- A feeling of aversion towards evil or error
- A relative preference of one thing over another. (*W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*)

God Hates In The Second Two Ways

- Though God is love (1John 4:8), He also hates. It is not contradictory to His loving character.
- Dislike of and antagonism toward evil (idolatry)
 - Jer. 44:2-5 - “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them, 3 'because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers. 4 'However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate! 5 'But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods.”
- We must hate it, too - Col. 3:5-6; 1Cor. 10:14

God Hates In The Second Two Ways

- Prov. 6:16-19 - “These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

God Hates In The Second Two Ways

- Preferring one thing over another
- God hated Esau in that He preferred Jacob
 - Rom. 9:13 - “As it is written, Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”
 - Mal. 1:2-3 - “I have loved you, says the LORD. Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Says the LORD. Yet Jacob I have loved; 3 But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness.”

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- We must hate every false way
 - Psalm 119:104 - “Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.”
- Does this work?
 - “Through your precepts I get understanding, therefore, I believe that one way is as good as another”

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- What we believe makes a difference
 - 2Thes. 2:10-12 - “and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- The church at Ephesus was commended for hating
 - Rev. 2:6 - “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”
- Those who are not standing passionately against error cannot stand earnestly for the truth.

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- We must hate evil
 - Psalm 97:10 - “You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.”
- Sin is against God
 - Psalm 51:4 - “Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- We need to recognize the seriousness of that fact
 - Gen. 39:9 - “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”
- God had to watch His Son die because of sin. How do you think God feels about sin?

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- Sin is degrading
 - Luke 15:14-16 - “But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. 15 Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. 16 And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.”
 - Prov. 13:15 - “...the way of the transgressor is hard”

We Should Hate Error And Evil

- Why do men not hate evil? Because they do not love God
 - Psalm 97:10 - “You who love the LORD, hate evil!”

We Must Prefer One Over Another

- A person cannot serve two masters
 - Matt. 6:24 - “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

We Must Prefer One Over Another

- Luke 14:26 - “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”
- Matt. 10:37 - “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”
- If it is a choice between pleasing God and pleasing family, we should hate our family (we should prefer God's will over theirs)

We Must Prefer One Over Another

- We must prefer pleasing God over living in this world
 - John 12:25 - “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica”
- If it is a choice between life or making a living and serving God, we should hate life.

We Must Prefer One Over Another

- The implications of this are great. What do you prefer? What do you put first?
 - When you put anything first and God second, you hate God.

Limits On Holy Hatred

- We should not hate the person who is in sin but should hate the sin that has captured him and harms others.
- God discerns between the sinner and his sins
 - Psalm 103:10-14 - “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that

Limits On Holy Hatred

- We should not hold on to hatred; it warps the spirit
 - Isa. 43:25 - “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”
 - Ecc. 3:8 - “A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.”

Limits On Holy Hatred

- We should not allow hatred to give those in opposition an opportunity to speak evil of us
 - Ranting at work or in the neighborhood, going on a tear in the social media, backbiting and badmouthing others
 - Psalm 37:8 - “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret; it only causes harm.”