

**LOVE...**

**and**

**HATE??**

(Love-hate #3)

1

**The 2 greatest commands have to do with LOVE.**

**Love** the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.  
Deuteronomy 6:5 (CSB)  
... *love your neighbor as yourself...*  
Leviticus 19:18b (CSB)

Jesus reminds us that even *enemies* are to be loved!  
"You have heard that it was said, '**Love your neighbor**, and hate your enemy.' But I tell you this: Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.  
In this way **you show that you are children of your Father in heaven.**"  
Matthew 5:43-45a (GW)

**Does this mean that HATE is always evil?**

2

**Where do you get your views about "HATE"?**

- ❖ From the Bible?      ❖ From the world?  
[A world that might condemn hate, but then *hates* and *slanders* you when you disagree with it.]

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If you claim to get your views from the Bible...

- ❖ Do you check out the Bible for yourself... or blindly accept what other people tell you?

3

**We are told many things about "hate."**  
**How many of them are true?**

All HATE is evil.  
HATE is not a "family value."  
God is only a God of LOVE.  
Hate is "unchristian."

"LOVE" and "HATE" are opposites.  
"A God who HATES" is an evil monster.

**Do you get your views from the BIBLE or from somewhere else?**

4

**ARE YOU AWARE...**

The words that are normally translated as "hate" are found in 189 verses in the Bible. (At times, they may be present 2-3 times in a verse.)

- ❖ Old Testament (Hebrew/Aramaic): 153 verses.
- ❖ New Testament (Greek): 36 verses.

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More than 25% of the verses – *in both Old and New Testaments* – use the word "HATE" as a good concept (in a few instances, neutral)!

For every THREE verses that describe "HATE" as something bad, you can find ONE verse that describes it as something good!

We are limiting this study to the words normally translated as "hate." There are a number of synonyms we could also consider.

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**1 OUT OF EVERY 4 VERSES USES "HATE" AS A GOOD CONCEPT!**

\* If this fact is new to you, how should you respond? \*

Should you be offended and reject the Bible?  
Or claim that the Bible contains errors?

Should you claim that the word "hate," when described as a good characteristic, doesn't actually mean "hate"?

If the "good" hate is directed toward a person, should you claim that it actually means "still love them, but just a little bit less"?

\* If we don't like what the Bible says, consider this: \*  
Is it OUR job to judge the BIBLE... or the BIBLE's job to judge US?

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### Here are the verses (and our attempt at grouping them):

(Some verses may use the word "hate" more than once.)

**BAD:** Genesis 24:60; 26:27; 29:31, 33; 37:4-5, 8; Exodus 1:10; 20:5; 23:5; Leviticus 19:17; 26:17; Numbers 10:35; 35:20; Deuteronomy 1:27; 4:42; 5:9; 7:10, 15; 9:28; 19:4, 6, 11; 21:15-17; 22:13, 16; 24:3; 30:7; 32:41; 33:11; Joshua 20:5; Judges 11:7; 14:16; 15:2; 2 Samuel 13:15, 22; 19:6; 22:18, 41; 1 Kings 22:8; 2 Chronicles 1:1; 18:7; 19:2; Esther 9:1, 5, 16; Job 8:22; 31:29; Psalm 9:13; 18:17, 40; 21:8; 25:19; 34:21; 35:19; 38:19; 41:7; 44:7, 10; 50:17; 55:12; 68:1; 69:4, 14; 81:15; 83:2; 86:17; 89:23; 105:25; 106:10, 41; 109:3, 5; 118:7; 120:6; 129:5; 139:21; Proverbs 1:22, 29; 5:12; 8:36; 9:8; 10:12, 18; 12:1; 13:24; 14:17, 20; 15:10, 17; 19:7; 25:17, 21; 26:24, 26, 28; 27:6; 29:10, 24; 30:23; Isaiah 60:15; 66:5; Ezekiel 16:27, 37; 23:28-29; 35:11; Daniel 4:19; Amos 5:10; Micah 3:2; Matthew 5:43; 10:22; 24:9-10; Mark 13:13; Luke 1:71; 6:22, 27; 19:14; 21:17; John 3:20; 7:7; 15:18-19, 23-25; 17:14; Titus 3:3; 1 John 2:9, 11; 3:13, 15; 4:20; Revelation 17:16;

**NEUTRAL, or difficult to fit into the other categories:** Job 34:17; Ecclesiastes 2:17-18; 3:8; 9:1, 6; Ephesians 5:29; Revelation 18:2;

**GOOD:** Exodus 18:21; Deuteronomy 12:31; 16:22; 2 Samuel 5:8; Psalm 5:5; 11:5; 26:5; 31:6; 36:2; 45:7; 97:10; 101:3; 119:104, 113, 128, 163; 139:21-22; Proverbs 6:16; 8:13; 11:15; 13:5; 15:27; 28:16; Isaiah 1:14; 61:8; Jeremiah 12:8; 44:4; Ezekiel 35:6; Hosea 9:15; Amos 5:15, 21; 6:8; Zechariah 8:17; Malachi 1:3; 2:16; Matthew 6:24; Luke 14:26; 16:13; John 12:25; Romans 7:15; 9:13; Hebrews 1:9; Jude 1:23; Revelation 2:6;



### AN ATTEMPTED OVERVIEW OF THESE VERSES.



#### VERSES THAT DESCRIBE HATE AS BAD.

⇒ These are the verses that people tend to focus on.

#### ✓ People hating people –

- General statements (sometimes an actual act of hating; sometimes a reference to people being hated). [29x]
- Referring to *enemies* (and often translated as "enemy"); the focus is often on being delivered from them, or being handed over to them (because of sin). [26x]
- Wicked people *hating righteous people*. [20x]
- Hate that is for "*no good reason*." (This suggests the possibility that there might be hate for *good* reasons; otherwise, why would *not* having a good reason be stressed?) [4x]

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#### [Some observations about these "hate" verses.]

- When reasons are given for the hate, they are never *good* reasons.
- LOVE, if mentioned, is viewed as incompatible with this hate.



- Don't be surprised at how hateful the world is – even when they hypocritically "preach" against hate!

If you had anything in common with the world, the world would love you as one of its own. But you don't have anything in common with the world.

Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world **hates** you.  
John 15:19a; 1 John 3:13 (GW)

Blessed are you when people **hate** you, and when they exclude you and insult you and reject you as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and jump for joy, because your reward is great in heaven. For their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

Luke 6:22-23 (NET)

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#### ✓ People hating God / Jesus –

- General statements about people hating God/Jesus. In the O.T., there are sometimes statements about their future judgment (or prayer that judgment will come). [13x]
- A verse that condemns having *love* for such people. [1x]

Jehu, [a prophet], asked King Jehoshaphat, "Why do you help wicked people and love those who **hate** the Lord? The Lord's anger is directed toward you because you have done this.  
2 Chronicles 19:2 (GW)

- A verse that expresses *hate* for such people. (David considers *God's* enemies to be *his* enemies.) [1x]

LORD, don't I **hate** those who **hate** you,  
and detest those who rebel against you?  
Psalm 139:21 (CSB)

#### ✓ People falsely accusing God of hate – [2x]

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#### ✓ People hating godly things / godly character – Many of these are in the book of Proverbs. [10x]

- God's instructions
- Discipline/instruction
- Correction/reproof
- Peace
- Knowledge
- Wisdom
- What is good
- The "light" (truth)

#### ✓ Various regulations and issues related to –

- Accidental killings vs. those done out of hatred. [6x]
- Marital situations involving hate; specifically: 1) situations involving multiple wives; and 2) divorce. (These are sometimes translated as "does not love.") [7x]

#### ✓ Various proverbs and teachings about this type of hate – [14x]

- Things about hate itself; things that cause it; people who tend to be hated; about hateful people.

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#### ✓ Instructions for responding to this type of hate – [9x]

- In the verses we already listed: When righteous people had to endure the hate of the wicked, we read about them:
  - (1) entrusting themselves to God, or (2) relying on God for protection/deliverance, or (3) asking God to punish the hater.
- We are not to have this type of hate – Leviticus 19:17a. If we do have it (and don't repent), there is no reason to believe we are saved – 1 John 2:9, 11; 3:15; 4:20.
- Instead, we are to do things that are an expression of *love*.
  - Examples: Exodus 23:5; Proverbs 25:21 [quoted in Romans 12:20, using the word "enemy" instead of "hate"].
  - Love is mandatory. We must oppose any type of hate that is incompatible with love – Matthew 5:43; Luke 6:27+.

"You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and **hate** your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies ...  
Matthew 5:43-44a (CSB)

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**"NEUTRAL" EXPRESSIONS OF HATE.**

- ⇒ These expressions of hate are not necessarily good or bad.  
Or it is difficult to place them in one of those categories.

✓ **Attempting to think through issues about life –**

- Attempting to understand the meaning of life; issues related to love and hate (in the book of Ecclesiastes). [5x]
- Asking a theoretical question about God – Job 34:17.

✓ **Misc. statements in the N.T. –**

- People don't hate themselves – Ephesians 5:29.
- A reference to "hateful birds" (probably carrion-eaters, considered "unclean" in the Old Testament) – Revelation 18:2.

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**GOOD EXPRESSIONS OF HATE.**

- ⇒ These are the verses that people often dislike.  
Some people may even deny that the verses exist!

✓ **People hating...**

- *Sinful conduct* – actions and attitudes. (This includes the sinful conduct of other people... but it also includes *our own* sinful conduct.) [20x]
- *People*. (*Sinful* people... but also people in general. Here, the context will be most helpful.) [10x]

✓ **God hating...**

- *Sinful conduct* – actions and attitudes. [11x]
- *People*. [6x]
- One extended passage seems to give examples from both categories. [1x]

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**IF "GOOD HATE" IS A NEW CONCEPT TO US, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

⇒ **Admit the concept exists.** Don't live in denial! These verses *do* exist – many of them – scattered throughout both Old and New Testaments. (It's not just an isolated verse in an obscure Old Testament passage.)

⇒ **Respond properly.** Some may preach against these verses (and against people who accept them). Others may try to redefine the word "hate" – such as claiming it means "love, but just a little bit less of it."

But ultimately, it comes down to the question:

**When we disagree with the Bible, who is right?**

The LORD's words are absolutely reliable.

Psalm 12:6a (NET)

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**Some things to consider:**

- 1) Hate is not always an emotion. It can involve choices – just like the Bible's concept of *love* does.
- 2) Though we normally consider love and hate to be "opposites," it will help us if we remember that there are *different* types of opposites. Some opposites complement each other (i.e., both may be present), whereas others contradict each other (i.e., only one can exist).
- 3) We can learn a lot from the context of a verse.

Next time, we will look further at these "good hate" verses.  
(You are encouraged to look at them before then, using the verse list given near the beginning of this study.)

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**How should we respond to all this?**

Not by memorizing all the information about these 189 verses!

Rather, by being encouraged to examine what the Bible says before we believe what people tell us.

① Accept the Word of God as it really is... the actual Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

② Find out if what you're being told is actually true (Acts 17:11).

③ Pursue a "renewed mind" (Romans 12:2).

④ Remember where our ability to do this comes from (Acts 26:18; Colossians 2:2b-3)!

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**Credits**

## SCRIPTURE

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Since the Old Testament is significantly larger than the New Testament, we should expect there to be more "hate" verses in it. For a better comparison, we can look at the *proportion* of hate verses to the total number of verses in each testament. In that case, the Old Testament has (proportionally) slightly more hate verses (0.66%, compared to 0.45%). However, if we remove 1) the verses where the word "hate" refers to people who are *enemies* (such as hostility between nations), and 2) the *proverbs* that teach us things related to hate, the proportions are the same for both testaments (0.45%, compared to 0.45%).

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