

What in the world is "GOOD" HATE??

(Love-hate #4)

1

We must first understand these four observations:

1. People tend to create a "God-concept" that they like, and then "adjust" Scripture to fit it. *We must do the opposite!*

We need to change our views to fit the Bible's description of God, and NOT change the Bible to fit our views!

- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** We live in a day in which many church-goers believe in a "love God" who isn't concerned with concepts such as holiness, justice, obedience, righteousness, the sinfulness of sin, etc. Scriptures that emphasize such concepts tend to be downplayed, ignored, or even denied.

People who point out that such concepts do exist are often verbally attacked – accused of being "unloving" or "judgmental" or "self-righteous" or one of many other slanderous accusations.

2

2. Many SINS are distortions of something GOOD.

Many concepts mentioned in the Bible can be good or bad – the context will show us which it is.

- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The New Testament word translated as "lust" can also be translated as "desire." It can refer to a good desire, or a sinful one.
 - GOOD: "I desire to see you" – 1 Thessalonians 2:17.
 - BAD: "The desires (or lusts) of the flesh" – (many verses).
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** It is good to enjoy food – God made it to be enjoyed! But when eating turns into gluttony, it has become sin.
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** "Jealous" and "zealous" come from the same N.T. Greek word. The context shows us whether it is a good or bad action.

3

3. We live in a day when the wicked are actively changing definitions of various words and concepts.

Unless we are willing to pay attention to how the Bible uses the concepts, we will blindly cling to the perspective of the world.

Some changes naturally occur over time. But our focus here is on deliberate, willful changes that reinforce the world's views, and make it more difficult to comprehend and accept Bible concepts.

- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** "Believing" has been changed from "accepting the truth and living by it" into something that is the *opposite* of facts (as in "make-believe" and "opinion").
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** "Freedom" has been changed from "the opportunity to do what is right" to "the opportunity to do as I please."
- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The world calls depraved sexual practices "love," and even redefines concepts related to gender.

4

4. Many WORDS have a range of MEANINGS.

This is normal in any language. The context will limit our options for what a word means. (There are also synonyms – different words that will have somewhat similar meanings.)

- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The word "LOVE" can refer to family love, romantic love, commitment love, unconditional love, etc.
 - O.T. Hebrew has 2 main synonyms for these concepts; N.T.; Greek has 4 main synonyms (only 2 are common in the N.T.).
 - In English, we mainly use 1 word – "love." (The world makes the issue more complicated because it treats lust as "love.")

The range of meanings is not always great; but it may result in different words being used in Bible translations.

- ✓ **EXAMPLE:** The word that refers to being "delivered" from something:
 - RELATED TO ETERNITY: "Your faith has saved you."
 - A MIRACULOUS HEALING: "Your faith has healed you."

5

When it comes to the issue of "hate," all 4 of these observations apply.

1. The God of the Bible does not match the god of human invention.

- ✓ When we look in Scripture, we discover that the God of the Bible does hate.
 - But this is NOT a unique issue...
- ✓ The God of the Bible has many characteristics that people – sinful people – don't like.
 - They would rather condemn the Bible's God, in order to defend their invented god.

"Would you discredit my justice?
Would you condemn me to justify myself?" } MANY PEOPLE
Job 40:8 (NIV) ARE WILLING
TO DO THIS.

6

THE VERY FACT THAT GOD SOMETIMES DOES HATE (AND SO DO RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE) PROVES:

2. There is a type of "hate" that is good.
The bad type of "hate" that we are more familiar with would be a *distortion* of what is good.

If this concept is new to us, perhaps it is because:

3. The wicked have distorted the concept of "hate."
What they "preach" may even be a half-truth... mixed with a lie. Eventually the lie "wins" and the Bible gets attacked.

4. The concept of "hate" may have a *range* of MEANINGS – some good, some bad (depending on who is doing it and why).
But we don't have to distort the concept into something it isn't ... perhaps even trying to get it to mean "non-hate"!

7

GOD'S PRIMARY (#1) CHARACTER TRAIT IS HOLINESS.

✦ **LOVE is a secondary (#2) trait.** ✦

We could describe "hate" as a tertiary (#3) trait. It only comes into view when evil is present; for evil is an utter rejection of God and who he is – and must be hated.

Because God is holy and righteous, *anything* and *anyone* that is the opposite must be opposed – "hated."

Because God is love, he offers people an opportunity to repent. But if they refuse, they must eventually experience wrath and judgment (even though it's not God's desire for it to happen).

[The "hate" of the wicked will be quite the opposite – existing for evil reasons, and often filled with rage and a desire to cause harm.]

8

We've already seen what the hate of the wicked is like.

LAST TIME

- ✓ They hate people – especially righteous people.
- ✓ They hate God / Jesus.
- ✓ They hate godly things and godly character.
- ✓ They hate for *no good reason*.

Now we need to see what God-honoring hate is like.

TODAY

- ✓ God hates... and his people must follow his example.
- ✓ The hate is directed toward all that is sinful, evil, wicked.
- ✓ Any hate that is present will be for a *good reason* – because the object of that hate represents a rejection of everything that God is.
- ✓ This type of hate does *not* cancel certain types of love. (It depends on what type of "love" we are referring to.)

9

What does God "HATE"?

✦ **And therefore, people must hate?**

✓ **God hates...** ✓ **People are to hate...**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinful conduct – actions and attitudes. [~11x] • Wicked people. [6x] • (One extended passage seems to give examples from both categories.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sinful conduct – actions and attitudes. [20x] • Wicked people. [6x] • Situations that involve people in general. (Here, the context will be most helpful.) [4x]
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TODAY

If such concepts are new to us, we will have to decide whether to "cancel" them, or to change the way we think. If we are willing to change, we can look at how these verses relate to our obligation to *love* others.

10

God hates...

✓ **Sinful conduct – actions and attitudes.**

[To get a better idea why the word "hate" is used, read the context of each passage.]

- Injustice, lies, robbery, wrongdoing, etc.

"For I, the LORD, love justice. I **hate** robbery and wrongdoing."
Isaiah 61:8a (NLT)

"But this is what you must do: Tell the truth to each other. Render verdicts in your courts that are just and that lead to peace. Don't scheme against each other. Stop your love of telling lies that you swear are the truth. I **hate** all these things, says the LORD."
Zechariah 8:16–17 (NLT)

11

- The worship of false gods and all the related activities.

You must not worship the LORD your God the way the other nations worship their gods, for they perform for their gods every detestable act that the LORD **hates**. They even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices to their gods.
Deuteronomy 12:31 (NLT)

They burned incense and worshiped other gods...
... I sent ... prophets, to plead with them, 'Don't do these horrible things that I **hate** so much.'
Jeremiah 44:3b, 4 (NLT)

- Worship of the true God in false ways.

Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to the Lord your God, and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the Lord your God **hates**.
Deuteronomy 16:21-22 (NIV)

12

- Doing religious activities without a changed (repentant) heart.

Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I **hate** with all my being.
Isaiah 1:14a (NIV)

Also mentioned in the context are their sacrifices, Sabbaths, prayers, etc.

"I **hate**, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me."
Amos 5:21 (NIV)

Also mentioned in the context are burnt offerings, fellowship offerings, and singing. As far as God is concerned, their worship was directed toward false gods!

This whole section of Amos is about their sinfulness and their impending judgment. Their reaction to these warnings? They were quite unconcerned!

13

- Attitude of self-reliance, when faced with God's judgment.

The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: "I abhor the pride of Jacob and **hate** his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it."
Amos 6:8 (ESV)

They were also quite complacent in the whole matter (mentioned in previous verses).

{ Divorce } It is uncertain if this verse fits here. The Hebrew is difficult to translate.

The options are: (1) "he" (= God) hates divorce, or (2) "he" (= the man) hates and (therefore) divorces. Either way, there is no question about the important issue: *God does not approve of divorce!*

"Indeed, the LORD God of Israel says that he **hates** divorce..."
Malachi 2:16a (ISV)

"The man who **hates** and divorces his wife..."
Malachi 2:16a (NIV)

14

- The practices of the Nicolaitans.

You [Christians at Ephesus] hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also **hate**.
Revelation 2:6b (CSB)

We don't know much about the Nicolaitans. It is thought that their practices may have involved sexual immorality and idolatry.

- A list of sinful practices (and apparently those who practice them).

The first 5 things mention body parts; the last 2 mention people.

The LORD **hates** six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers.
Proverbs 6:16-19 (CSB)

15

People must hate...

✓ **Sinful conduct – actions and attitudes.**

- Sinful deeds, actions; various forms of evil.

I **hate** pride, arrogance, evil behavior, and twisted speech.
Proverbs 8:13b (GW)

Since you did not **hate** bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.
Ezekiel 35:6b (NET)
{ They should have hated it. }

I **hate** what unfaithful people do. I want no part of it.
Psalm 101:3b (GW)

The righteous **hate** lying, ...
Proverbs 13:5a (CSB)

I **hate** and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.
Psalm 119:163 (ESV)

For what I want to do I do not do, but what I **hate** I do.
Romans 7:15b (NIV)
{ = Part of the description of the struggle between the spirit and the flesh. }

16

- Sin, evil, wickedness (in general).

You who love the LORD, **hate** evil!
Psalm 97:10a (CSB)

To fear the Lord is to **hate** evil.
Proverbs 8:13a (GW)

For with his flattering opinion of himself, [the wicked person] does not discover and **hate** his iniquity.
Psalm 36:2 (CSB)

You love justice and **hate** evil.
Psalm 45:7a (NET)

A messianic psalm about the king (O.T.), applied to Jesus (N.T.)

Hate **evil**, love good; maintain justice in the courts.
Amos 5:15 (NIV)

You have loved righteousness and **hated** lawlessness.
Hebrews 1:9a (NET)

Since the people were unwilling to do these things, God said he hated their religious activities, as well as their self-sufficient complacency – Amos 5:21; 6:8.

{ Hate was one of the reasons Jesus was exalted! (Love was the other.) }

17

- Sinful and foolish uses of money.

[A ruler] who **hates** unjust gain will prolong his days.
Proverbs 28:16b (ESV)

Whoever is greedy for unjust gain brings trouble to his family, but whoever **hates** bribes will live.
Proverbs 15:27 (GW)

But select from all the people some capable, honest men who fear God and **hate** bribes. Appoint them as leaders ...
Exodus 18:21a (NLT)

If someone puts up security for a stranger, he will suffer for it, but the one who **hates** such agreements is protected.
Proverbs 11:15 (CSB)

18

- Everything that is contrary to God and his Word.

I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I **hate** every wrong path.
Psalm 119:104 (NIV)

You **hate** the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I [= God] also hate.
Revelation 2:6b (CSB)

I carefully follow all your precepts and **hate** every false way.
Psalm 119:128 (CSB)

We don't know much about the Nicolaitans... but we do know that it's good to hate what God hates!

- Anything that has to do with the influences of false teaching.

Here, symbolized by clothing.

Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—**hating** even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.
Jude 1:22-23 (NIV)

19

✦ Some observations and comments. ✦

- These sinful practices must be hated, because:
 - ⇒ They are a rejection of God and who he is. (The "God hates" verses have a greater focus on these.)
 - ⇒ They destroy right relationships between people. (The "People must hate" verses have a greater focus on these.)
- The examples seen today illustrate the types of things we should hate. Anything else of similar nature must also be hated.
- Verses about what the wicked hate (not our focus today) tend to be the opposite of these things, and would illustrate what we are not to hate.

20

★ How should we respond to all this? ★

- When the world distorts (and then attacks) what the Bible says, we do not have to apologize or be embarrassed about the Bible's message. (They do this with many concepts, not just "hate.")
- Realize that HATE is a godly response to sin and evil, and not a contradiction to the commands about LOVE for God and neighbor.
 - An unwillingness to hate sin and evil does not honor God!
- Even though the hate we normally see (= the world's type) is a perversion of what hate should be like, we should not let the world's perversions "cancel" our God-honoring expression of hate!



(The verses in which hate is directed toward people will raise a number of questions what need answered. We will deal with them next time.)

21

Credits

SCRIPTURE

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