

THE HUMAN HEART—Hatred

"Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins." (10:12)

INTRODUCTION—Good people hate the evil and their evil deeds. That seems like a natural enough human response (14:17; 24:24-25). But there is also a dark, ugly side to this emotion—a side directly related to Satan (1 John 3:10-15). Hatred first reared its ugly head in Cain's heart, giving him the notorious distinction as the first murderer (Genesis 4:1-15).

Murder is a heinous crime, rarely mentioned among God's people, but hatred is commonplace. Yet, the man who hates and the man who kills are guilty of the same crime, for the sin lies in the inward disposition—of which the act is only the outward expression (1 John 3:15).

I. THE DARK SIDE OF HATRED

- A. Evil Men Hate Good Men (29:10; 21:10). Understandably the good hate the evil and their deeds, but why would the evil hate the good (cf. 9:8; John 3:19-21)?
- B. Disguises Itself (26:24-26; 10:18). It hides behind flattery, lies, and kind speech. Hatred will make one a hypocrite, blessing with his mouth and cursing with his heart.
- C. Stirs Up Strife (10:12; 26:20-21). Without fuel the fire goes out. Hatred fuels strife, contention, and dissension.
- D. Comes Back on You (26:27 [note the context 26:24-28]). It is merciless to others, it will be merciless to you.

II. MANIFESTATIONS OF HATRED (Note the New Testament passages where these sins are grouped together [Galatians 5:19-21, 26; Titus 3:3; James 3:10-18; 1 Peter 2:1; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7]). Hatred is a common link to all these sins.

- A. Envy and Jealousy (14:30; 6:34-35; 21:25-26). Not only does envy want what another person has, but it hates him for having it (cf. Romans 12:15).
- B. Lying (26:28; 10:18). Hatred spreads gossip, rumors, slander, innuendoes, and lies which destroy the one it hates. It can smite its enemy secretly when his defenses are down.
- C. Retaliation (20:22; 24:29). What are some ways that we retaliate against others? Is this a wise reaction? Take a look:
 - 1. Displeasing to God (17:5; 24:17). Why would such rejoicing be wrong?
 - 2. A Losing Response (26:27).
 - 3. The Proper Response (25:21-22). How would we do this?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—

- 1) What are some of hatred's attendant evils? Why are these things mentioned together so often (cf. Galatians 5:19-21; Titus 3:3; etc.)?
- 2) Why is hatred equivalent to murder (1 John 3:10-15)?

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- 3) *Why is hatred sure to come back to you (26:27)?*
 - 4) *How does hatred disguise itself (26:24-28)?*
 - 5) *Did envy or jealousy ever produce any positive results between Cain and Abel, Sarah and Hagar, Rachel and Leah, or Joseph and his brothers?*
 - 6) *Does love ever cause envy (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:4)? In what way does hatred cause envy?*
 - 7) *Why is it wrong to rejoice at the calamity of others (17:5; 24:17)?*
 - 8) *Can money, possessions, pleasures, or anything compensate for having to live with hatred (15:17)?*
 - 9) *Why is the poor man hated (14:20; 19:6-7)? Would you say hatred is a selfish emotion?*
 - 10) *What is the solution to hatred?*