

John 15:18-16:6

A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution! (pt. 1)

INTRO: The primacy of biblical love. Why is it critically important for God's people to love one another in a Christ-like manner? (note John 15:12-17 against the hatred and persecution of John 15:18-16:6).

Forthcoming Sermon Series Outline

- I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution
- II) A Historical Overview of Hatred and Persecution
- III) Jesus' Prophetic Words Concerning Hatred and Christian Persecution

I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution

- A) Defining Key Terms.

HATE-

PERSECUTION-

B) Distinguishing *righteous anger* from *sinful hatred*

I) **A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution** (*here are the first 3 Core Truths*)

1) *A Defining Mark of Fallen Humanity is _____.*

2) *Like Satan, unbelievers _____ what they should love and love what they should _____.*

3) *Non-Christians often hate Believers for getting in the way of their favorite vices or for rejecting their _____ and false gods.*

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

We must treat one another as friends and family (note John 15:12-17; 13:34-35). In view of John 15:18-16:6, why is it so essential for God's people to love one another in a Christ-like manner?

Like a master artist, Jesus powerfully contrasts Love and Friendship *with* Hatred and Persecution!

What Bible verses were cited today that suggest Christians should expect to be mistreated and persecuted by unbelievers in this lost world?

The purpose of this sermon series is to zero in on religious persecution against God's people and persecution for righteousness' sake.

Provide a definition of hatred and persecution.

What's the difference between righteous anger and sinful hatred? Sinful hatred loathes God, God's Attributes, God's Son, God's Spirit, God's Plan, God's Law, God's Word, and/or God's people!

What does the Bible have to say concerning God's holy wrath and His righteous indignation? (note Romans 1:18-32; Psalm 7:11; John 3:16-17, 36).

Review the first 3 Core Truths under heading 1) a biblical theology of hatred and persecution. How do these three core truths/biblical principles help us make sense of this crazy world? What are some examples of current events that illustrate and/or directly relate to these 3 "core truths?" Talk a little bit about how timely and practical God's Word is concerning hatred and persecution.

Selfless, humble, sacrificial, (Christ-like) love is what King Jesus expects from His people; (His "friends" and true disciples). Compare and contrast Christ's teaching on love in John 15:12-13 and John 13:34-35 with the so-called wisdom of this world. Note the dominate emphasis today on self-love and self-care. In the song the "Greatest Love of All" by George Benson and Whitney Houston the lyrics are as follows; *Everybody searching for a hero/People need someone to look up to/ I never found anyone who fulfill my needs/A lonely place to be/ And so I learned to depend on me...The greatest love of all is happening to me/ I found the greatest love of all/Inside of me/The greatest love of all/ Is easy to achieve/Learning to love yourself/It is the greatest love of all.* Many books and songs today promote this unbiblical message. Carl Trueman describes "the rise and triumph of the modern self" in the West as "expressive individualism." The Bible does not need to command us to take good care of ourselves; we do that quite well; (sometimes in great excess). Note Eph. 5:28-30. Relationships often break down and churches split because of carnal selfishness; Read Colossians 3:12-14.

A friend of King Jesus' is a friend of mine! Do your actions and words demonstrate that you view your brothers and sisters in Christ as friends and family in the way you treat them? What are some ways you've experienced Christ-like love here at Lake Country Bible Church. What are some practical ways you can "love one another" (John 15:12-13, 17) this Christmas season? How can prayer be an expression of love? How can ministry service be an expression of love? How can sacrificial giving be an expression of love? How can you show Christ-like love to church family during happy times; (such as engagements/weddings/the birth of children)? How can you show Christ-like love to church family during hard times; (such as funerals; surgeries/cancer treatments; Christian persecution; etc)? Attending someone's wedding from church is a simple way to flesh out John 15:12-13. Rarely are believers asked to sacrifice their life for a Christian friend (John 15:13); but we are given many opportunities to die to self in selfless service to one another.

A REVIEW OF JOHN 15 SERMON SERIES

Thus far we've considered Jesus' Extended Garden/Vineyard Metaphor.

In John 15:1-8

- A) God the Son is the True Vine; (John 15:1a, 4-5, 7)
- B) God the Father is the Master-Gardener; (John 15:1b-2)
- C) Counterfeit Christians are the Fruitless Branches; (John 15:2a, 6; Mt. 3:12; Jn 13:21-30)
- D) Genuine Disciples are the Fruit-bearing Branches; (John 15:2b-3, 5, 8;)

By their *fruits* you shall know them is Jesus Christ's "own canon of sacred criticism."

Jesus' teaching in John 15:9-12 on "Love and Obedience" is a 5- Stranded Cord.

The following 5 "cords" are interwoven and interconnected:

- 1) The Blessings of Union with Christ include peace, joy, and love.
- 2) Abiding in Christ's Love enables believers to bear even more fruit.
- 3) Believers Remain in Christ's Love through Heartfelt Obedience.
- 4) Heartfelt Obedience is the overflow and evidence of sincere love for Christ.
- 5) The Love of God in Christ motivates and compels us to sacrificial love and good deeds.

Jesus' sermon on Love and Friendship in verses 12-17 highlights 3 Great Truths

- 1) The Savior's *sacrificial* love is the model for His friend's *mutual* love.

(*John 15:12-14*; Rom. 5:6-8; Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:32)

- 2) Jesus' Friends are Granted VIP access (insider information) concerning the Master's Affairs.

(*John 15:15*; 16:12; Matt. 11:25-27)

- 3) The Sovereign King Handpicks His Friends and Calls Each of Us to Love & Good Deeds.

(*John 15:16*; 6:63-70a; Eph. 1-2)

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