



## Love the sinner but hate the Sin

There is an enormous difference between the two—Sinner or sin. We live in times where sin is promoted, applauded, and celebrated. If you hate sin and evil like the bible teaches (Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 97:10), if you aren't careful, you might end up hating the sinner and the sin. We must renew our minds and not slip into hating the sinner and the sin. Do not throw the baby out with the bathwater.

Satan is a spirit and needs a physical body to do his evil. This means people will be vessels and instruments through which evil and sin comes. People make themselves available to Satan to work and live through them. Therefore, sometimes we must deal with a person to deal with Satan because that person has yielded himself to the enemy.

We are not against the people, but we must deal with the person to deal with sin and evil. This doesn't mean we hate the person, but we hate the sin coming through them. We can't promote or elevate vessels of sin to love the sinner. Another way of saying this is that we have to deal with sin even if a person gets in the way. Take, for instance, how government authority does this. They will lock your flesh up if you break the law. They don't hate you, but they hate what you did and the best way for them to stop and restrain you from doing that bad thing they hate is to lock you up. They also love the people you might harm and injure so much that they will have to deal with you to protect them.

If a doctor has to deal with cancer and stop it from spreading and destroying the entire body, he will have to amputate a limb not because he hates you, but because he loves you so much. He hates cancer that he will do anything to destroy those cancer cells even if it means damage to your physical body.

A. Jesus hated the sin, not the sinner.

a) Cast out the scorner

Proverbs 22:10 "Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease."

- i) This verse instructs us to deal with the scorner (proud) person so that contention, strife, and reproach might stop. When such a step is done, it's because the person yielded to Satan and is bringing destruction. If we do not deal with him, we will have even bigger problems. We do not do that because we hate him but because we hate what the contention, strife, and reproach are doing to them and the only way to get rid of it all is by dealing with the scorner.

b) Get thee behind me, Satan.

Matthew 16:22-23 "Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."

- i) Jesus was not rebuking Peter and calling him Satan. Jesus was looking behind the scene. Satan had inspired Peter to speak this way. The Lord was never against Peter. He loved Peter and prior to this verse He had just given him one of the best compliments. However, now, Satan was influencing Peter, so Jesus said, "Get thee behind me Satan".

c) Woman at the well

John 4:17-18 "The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly."

- i) It's interesting here in these verses. Jesus did not condemn the woman, but He also did not withhold from speaking the truth to her. He loved the sinner (woman) but spoke up against her sin of living in sexual immorality with a man that was not her husband.
- ii) Notice that Jesus said that this man was not her husband. Co-habiting is not a marriage relationship. It doesn't matter how long you have lived together, that man or woman is not your husband or wife.
- iii) I really believe that we can come across graciously speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) but I'm not bound by how people perceive how I come across because they have a choice to perceive it any way they want to.

d) Woman caught in the very act of adultery

John 8:7 “So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. <sup>10</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? <sup>11</sup> She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

- i) This is another good one. This woman is caught in the very act of adultery, but when she was brought to Jesus for judgment, His response was stunning to these religious men. He said that he that is without sin should cast the first stone at her. All these religious people had sinned, so no one had a right to cast a stone at her among all the people present but Jesus.
- ii) Jesus valued this woman but not the sin, that’s why He said to her, “go and sin no more”

We need to hate the act, not the actor!

- e) Our society and churches to love the sinner have lost the balance and have damaged society. For instance, many are promoting homosexuality in churches is detrimental to our children. We should not promote such, which destroys our children. We shouldn’t promote sexual immorality which in return destroys marriages and homes. I’m not and I will not promote a certain behavior or sin to appear loving to the sinner. I will love the sinner and so should you, but you have to hate sin (Psalm 97:10; Proverbs 8:13)

Jesus loves you homosexual, you thief, you liar, and you adulterer but he hates homosexuality, theft, deception, and adultery.

B. Rebuke thy brother

Leviticus 19:17 “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.”

- a) If we truly love people, we will tell them the truth regardless of the cost. If they have to leave the church for speaking the truth, let them leave praise the Lord, Amen. Probably they weren’t meant to be there. Again, the balance is the heart or attitude in which we share and/or rebuke them. Blind love that never rebukes is not God’s

kind of love. Sin is so destructive to people and if you really love them like you say you do, then you will do something to stop them from self-destruction.

- b) Also, in an effort to love the sinner, many ministers and preachers have been neutralized from speaking up against sin including adultery, Homosexuality and so forth. The critics say that is judging or condemning other people. Not true! Jesus spoke up against ungodliness, and He was not judging or condemning anyone. The difference is in the attitude.
- c) Why do then people feel condemned? What really condemns people is not us but is their own hearts and conscience (John 8:9). When people are living ungodly lifestyles, they will do anything to silence any moral voice that tries to set off their God in-built heart moral alarm (Romans 1:18-22) on the inside of them. This is the very reason people hate churches, Christians, crosses, Christian billboards, prayer in schools and anything “Jesus tagged”, godly and so forth. All that these do is to set off that in heart God-built moral alarm that they are living their lives in rebellion to God and then their hearts condemn them but it’s not the cross, not the church, not Jesus Christ, not prayer in schools.

True, we can speak against all these ungodly acts in a loving way and help people come free—but this doesn’t mean all people will come out or come free of such behaviors. Ultimately, people choose how they want to behave.

### C. Hate sin

A person who is truly a loving person has to hate sin. If you don’t hate adultery, murder, homosexuality and sin at large, you aren’t following the Word of God. I have not come across a single scripture that tells you to hate the sinner. Even from the example of Jesus, we see that He loved the sinner and hated the sin.

Not only does God hate evil, He has given us the same ability and has instructed us to hate evil. These verses below speak volumes about hatred—hatred of evil.

- a) Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.
  - i) Hating evil and loving the Lord go hand in hand. Those who hate evil love the Lord. This shows that hating is a good thing, if we are hating evil.

- b) Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”
- i) According to this verse, the true fear of the Lord is to hate evil. God hates pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the forward mouth. The Lord hates these things. Notice that He doesn’t hate people who do these things, but He hates these acts. There is a vast difference. We need to hate what the Lord hates.
- c) Romans 12:9 “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”
- i) This verse tells us to hate evil and cleave unto that which is good. One of the ways we hate evil is by cleaving to that which is good.
  - ii) Genuine love is without hypocrisy. It has a hatred for evil. When we hate evil, we cleave to what is good.
  - iii) We won’t depart from what we do not hate. We need to work on our capacity to hate—no, not people but evil. If you do not hate evil, sin, and ungodliness, you will participate.
- d) Job 1:1 “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”
- i) This text makes says that Job eschewed evil, which means he hated evil. The Amplified version says that he “abstained from and shunned evil.” We won’t truly abstain from someone we do not hate because when we hate something, we lose the desire to participate in it. Shunning evil leads to abstaining and departing from it.
  - ii) Notice that there is no genuine fear of the Lord that excludes hatred for evil. One of the major deterrent from sin is to develop a hatred for it. Very few people will do what they hate. We cannot separate hatred for evil from fearing God.

We live in a world where people are no longer shy nor ashamed of evil and sin. They publicly do the despicable on live TV such as late-night shows while many are busy clapping. What has happened to the shyness of evil? Our societies through the fear of God used to be shy about sin and evil. Adultery and many other ungodly behaviors were never celebrated but rather shunned.

Today, these people pay big money for sin and the promotion of evil. We should be shunning evil not embracing it.

I remember a guy in Uganda who was celebrated for having sex live on TV. People came out on the streets and were celebrating a “hero”, yet he was a zero with the rim knocked off. This was a celebration of Absalom who had sex publicly with the father’s wives (2 Samuel 16:20-22). The spirit of Absalom is being celebrated by many today. What a shame!

- e) Ephesians 4:26-27 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.
- i) James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
  - ii) One of the ways to hate evil is by being angry at sin, hence resisting the devil.
    - Those who have no hatred for evil will not resist the devil.
  - iii) Jesus was angry at sin and made a whip and drove merchants out of the Temple. He did this twice (at the beginning and at the end).
    - John 2:14-17; Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-46.
  - iv) Psalm 4:4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
    - The word “awe” here means to be angry (see the NKJV, and the Amplified). This is talking about a godly anger as Ephesians 4:26-27.
    - If we aren’t angry, we will sin. Anger is meant to fight against sin and evil and its author—Satan.
- f) Isaiah 5:20 “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”
- i) As long as we do not develop or practice a hatred for evil and sin, we will end up calling evil good, and good evil. If we hate evil, we won’t make the mistake of calling good evil and evil good.

g) Amos 5:14-15 “Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

i) These two verses instruct us to hate evil but not only that but go further and love the good. This would imply that it’s not enough for us to hate the evil, but we should move further and love the good. If we do, then will establish judgment. A lack of hatred for evil and love for good will cause a lack of judgement.

- Hating evil = fearing God = loving the good

ii) Many people do not have a fear for the Lord because of their love for the things of this world. We can’t love the world and love God at the same time. It’s impossible. We need to choose one and give up on the other.

- 1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- “World” means “the ungodly multitude; the whole mass of men alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ” (Thayer’s Definition)

h) Proverbs 16:6 “By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.”

i) The true fear of the Lord results in departing from evil. Anyone who claims to love the Lord and does not depart from evil is lying.

i) Psalm 36:4 “He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.”

i) We need to abhor (hate) evil lest we devise mischief and set ourselves in a way that is not right.

j) Psalm 119:163 “I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love.”

i) Here the Psalmist tells us he hated and detested lying but loved the Word of God. Loving the Word of God will produce hatred for sin and lying. Those who do not know nor love the Word of God have no hatred for sin and the ungodliness

that is going on in our society. If we truly hated ungodliness, we would never entertain ourselves with the perverted movies that we bring into our homes. If we only people can fall in love with the Word of God, they would naturally develop a hatred for sin and ungodliness. No love for the word = No hatred for sin and ungodliness.

- ii) According to Proverbs 8:13 and Proverbs 16:6, the fear of the Lord is defined as to depart from evil, but we can't truly depart from evil unless we hate it. Therefore, to depart from evil is to hate it. We can't overcome what we do not hate. As long as we are still in love with certain things, we can't overcome them. Hate is one of the ways to depart from evil and sin. No hatred, no departing. In the same breath, we can't resist what we do not hate (James 4:7). If you don't hate the devil and his works such as stealing, killing and destroying, you won't resist him effectively.

Jesus loves the sinner so much that He came and died for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21). He loves us and wants to have a relationship with us. The key to stopping the rise of sin, first, is to receive Jesus in our hearts as Lord and Savior. Romans 10:9-10 says "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed."

I want to encourage and stir you up to hate sin, sickness, poverty, diseases, killing, destroying, disease, lying, cheating, adultery and so forth. God hates evil, He hates iniquity and sin. Will you hate what God hates?

God hates evil. He hates iniquity and sin. Will you hate what God hates?