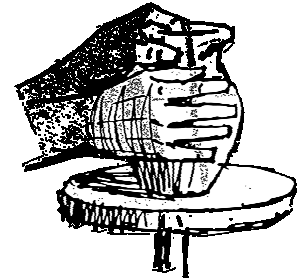


His Workmanship: Westside

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."

—Ephesians 2:10



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Isaiah 64:8

I Want You to Hate More, by Jason Longstreth

I'm sure we have all heard it before. Perhaps we have even taught it to our own children or grandchildren. It is a short lesson about life and the attitudes that we should display. What is it? "You are not supposed to hate." With this one phrase we try to teach our children the value of love and the dangers of hate. We try to teach them to be "good people." We tell them (or at least imply) that good people don't hate. And perhaps most of the time it is a lesson that our children need to learn. But let me ask you a question, are we not supposed to hate?

One thing that we need to understand is that sometimes we have preconceived ideas. Most of us probably feel that hatred is wrong. We associate love with goodness and hatred with evil. To use a little Star Wars language, hatred is the path to the "dark side." But is that correct? If you were to take out your Bible concordance and look up the word "hate," you might be surprised at what you found. That word and its forms (hated, hates, hating, hatred) is used quite a few (about 189) times in the Bible. You might also be surprised to learn that over twenty times we read that God hates certain things, and about twenty times we read that His people should hate certain things. If

God hates something, then hatred itself cannot be evil.

What we must understand when we hear the phrase "You are not supposed to hate" is the object of that hatred. What are you not supposed to hate? If we say that we are not supposed to hate anything, we are wrong! However, if we say that we are not supposed to hate people, then that has some validity. This is probably what we are trying to convey to our children by the phrase. When little Joey says, "I hate him!" we reply, "You shouldn't hate anyone." We are supposed to have love and compassion for our fellow man.

Having said these things, let me now ask another question: Are there things that we should hate? Are we supposed to hate certain things? The answer is, "Absolutely!" Throughout the Bible, we read of things that God hates. "*For I hate divorce,' says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'and him who covers his garment with wrong,' says the Lord of hosts. 'So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously,'*" Mal 2:16. God hates **evil** and **treachery**. He hates **idolatry**: "*You shall not set up a sacred pillar, which the LORD your God hates.*" Deut 16:22; cf. Lev 20:23; 26:30; Deut 7:25-26; 12:31. He also hates the **boastful** and **proud**: "*The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity,*" Ps 5:5; cf. Am

6:8. He loves righteousness and justice, but hates **wickedness (lawlessness), robbery, lying, and violence**, Ps 45:6-7; Is 61:8; Heb 1:9. He hates it when we treat others harmfully and lie: "*Let none of you think evil in your heart against your neighbor; and do not love a false oath. For all these are things that I hate,' says the LORD,*" Zech 8:17. In fact, Proverbs lists six things the Lord hates, including people: "*A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren,*" Pr 6:16-19.

The fact is, we are supposed to hate evil, just like God hates evil. "*You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked,*" Ps 97:10; cf. Ps 36:4; Am 5:15. His people were to choose leaders who "*hate covetousness,*" Ex 18:21. We are supposed to hate sin. What does this mean? If you hate something, how do you treat it? You surely do not support it or accept it, do you? David "*hated those who regard useless idols,*" Ps 31:6. He said, "*I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me,*" Ps 101:3. Another Psalmist said, "*I hate every false way... I hate and abhor lying,*" Ps 119:104, 128, 163. He hates being lied to, and he hates it when he continued on p. 2

Hate More, from p. 1

himself lies: "A righteous man hates lying," Pr 13:5. Like God, he hates greed and covetousness, Pr 15:27; 28:16. You see, to be around evil companions means that we are likely to compromise with evil, 1 Cor 15:33. We have to make distinctive choices: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon," Mt 6:24 (Lk 16:13). If we don't choose, we are double-minded and unstable, which shows that we lack faith, Jas 1: 8. "I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law," Ps 119:113. We must warn those who are becoming compromised by sin, "have compassion on some who doubt, but others save with fear, snatching them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh," Jude 22-23.

But some Christians tolerate and even condone evil. Sin is not funny! If we think bad language and bad actions are humorous, we do not hate evil. If we say that our favorite movies or TV shows are the ones that depict people in sinful relationships and situations, we do not hate evil. If our "idols" are sports or entertainment celebrities who practice sinful things and boast in their sin, we do not hate evil. It may be true that we should "love the sinner," but we also should "hate the sin." If we hate sin, then we identify with our Lord God: "Do I not hate them, O LORD, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies," Ps 139:21-22. Hating evil is one of the ways we start to gain wisdom: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom," Ps 111:10; Pr 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; "The fear of the LORD leads to life," Pr 19:23; 10:27; 14:27; and "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate," Pr 8:13. And if we do not hate evil, we are not acting like Christians. "I have hated the assembly of evildoers," said David, "and will not sit with the wicked," Ps 26:5. "You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His

saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked," Ps 97:10. The morally bad, wicked person "devises wickedness on his bed; he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not abhor evil," Ps 36:4.

In fact, although God loves the whole world, Jn 3:16, and loves us while we are still in our sins, Rm 5:8, at some point God even hates the sinner as well as the sin. He hates the violent person: "The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates," Ps 11:5. In the list of six things the Lord hates in Pr 6:16-19, two are people: "a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." God said he abhorred (*quwt*, "was disgusted with") the Canaanite nations, Lev 20:23. Jesus hated the deeds (the sins) and the doctrine of the Nicolaitans: "...you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate," Rev 2:6, 15. But eventually God even hated Israel, His own heritage, because of their sin: "I have forsaken My house, I have left My heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies. My heritage is to Me like a lion in the forest; it cries out against Me; therefore I have hated it," Jer 12:7-8; cf. Ps 106:40; Jer 14:19; Ezek 16:5; Hos 9:15; Zech 11:8. He hated their sin, their false acts of worship, Am 5:21, Is 1:14, and saw those as abomination, Jer 44:4. His hatred of their sin was so intense that He looked away from His people, He "loved them less," as some have interpreted the meaning for "hate." We see this usage when God spoke of His choice of Jacob over Esau: "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated," Mal 1:2-3; Rm 9:13. The Hebrew word *sane*, used here and 139 times in the Old Testament, means "foe, enemy; be odious," as in Ex 20:5; Num 10:35. The same word in Greek is *miseo*, which means "detest[ed;] hatred; by extension, to love less." This is the same sense (and word) of "hate" Jesus used, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple," Lk 14:26.

This may sound strange, but probably

most of us need to hate more. We need to hate sin! We need to be passionate about the utter ugliness and degradation of iniquity. This is one of the things that will keep us from practicing it. Paul instructed, "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good," Rm 12:9. And finally, we will hate the sin in our "self"; our love for God will extinguish the love of self. "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life," Jn 12:25.

"You Shall Not Hate Your Brother In Your Heart," by Joe Price

God said to Israel, "You shall not hate your brother in your heart," Lev 19:17. What God commanded Israel is magnified under the gospel of Christ, Mt 5:43-48. Hatred is malicious animosity toward another person. It is a blight upon human relations. It is a cancer that destroys unity and harmony in the world and in the body of Christ. We do well to review the Bible teaching against hatred in order to guard ourselves against this unholy, sinful attribute.

1. Hatred includes bearing a grudge, Lev 19:18. Holding a grudge is but one of the outward manifestations of hatred. When "love your neighbor as yourself" is obeyed, hateful grudges cease.

2. Hatred stirs up strife, Pr 10:12. Like a spoon stirring a pot, hatred fomented contention, arguments, dissension.

3. The person who hates and tries to hide his hatred is a liar, Pr 10:18. "He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself; when he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly," Pr 26:24-26. We cannot hate a person and hide that hatred without showing ourselves to be a liar.

4. Hatred does not satisfy the soul, Pr 15:17. Hating someone brings no resolution, no reward. Why not rather sow

continued on p. 3



God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Do Not Hate Your Brother, from p. 2 contentment by cultivating love toward others?

5. Hatred condemns the soul, Gal 5:20-21. It is a work of the flesh, driven by fleshly lusts. A person who hates another is not being "led by the Spirit," Gal 5:16-18, 22-23.

6. Hatred and its companions must be discarded, Eph 4:31-32. Hatred never works alone. Its partners in evil include bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, railing, envy, and malice. All of these must be put away and replaced with kindness, tender-heartedness, and forgiveness, vs. 31-32.

7. Hatred is characteristic of darkness, 1 Jn 2:9-11. The Christian who hates his brother is blinded by sin and walking in darkness. Hatred never illuminates the soul. It only plunges us into blackness.

8. Hatred causes us to live in death; the hater may as well be a murderer, 1 Jn 3:14-15. Brotherly love is a mark of spiritual life, while hatred is a mark of spiritual death. Hatred murders our life with God as it murders brotherly relations. Hatred causes spiritual death.

9. The Christian who holds hatred in his heart cannot love God, 1 Jn 4:20. It is completely inconsistent to proclaim love for God while hating a brother in Christ. If we cannot love our brethren (whom we see), how can we love God (Whom we have not seen)? God is love, and He will not accept those who hate others, 1 Jn 4:8.

Hatred is a menace. It is a destroyer. In Christ, hatred is replaced with genuine love, especially for those we once hated, Mt 5:43-48.

"Scorn is hatred's nectar."

—Jules Barbey D'Aureville

Discipleship Here At Home

God CAN Fix This, from p. 4 safer until it recognizes that the problem isn't the instruments of violence, but the environment of it. If the White House truly wanted to end the animosity dividing us, it would stop inflaming it through policies that punish religion and fast-track moral decline. It isn't that God can't fix this—it's that cynics like the ones at New York Daily News won't let Him.



In her column about the Left's response to the shooting, The Federalist's Mollie Hemmingway hit the nail on the head. Liberals are only diminishing the faith of Christians so that they can exercise their own religion: big government. "[Progressives] explain that the god of good government would have been able to take care of us if only we'd given it sufficient power to do so. In this case, that power is gun control," she points out. "Progressives tend to believe that government—if made to have sufficient size, scope, and proper management over the affairs of man—will fix or at least seriously mitigate the problem of evil in the world. They tend to believe that man can be perfected, and perfected through government action. These almost cartoonish denunciations of prayer we saw yesterday, combined with the implicit praises of government action, are best understood as a sort of primitive religious reaction to the problem that growth of the state still hasn't fixed the problem of evil in the world."

While these forces tug at the fraying fabric of America, our prayers are more important than ever. We must continue to offer them—for our leaders, for victims, and for our nation—without apology. "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land," 2 Chr 7:14.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Jordan Corray's** colleague and mentor **Craig Smith**—in ICU with brain injury after fall from roof; friend **Kylie Cabalka**—staph infection complications; out of ICU to rehab, making progress
 - **Sarah McMurray's** mentee **Lakesha Griffin**—age 12; safety, stable home place
 - **Brittany Tope's** mother **Gayle**—spot on liver; biopsy last week shows cancer; grandmother—dialysis
 - **Connor Boyd's** friend **Christian Lyons**, high school freshman—leukemia
 - **Berney Charo's** brother **Eliud**—prostate cancer
 - **Kory Tope's** uncle, **Skeeter Schulz**—hip
 - **Judy Strand**—preparing for liver transplant by chemo drugs; also broken arm, post-surgery pain
 - **Sheryle McNeill**—pinched nerve
 - **Ernesto Gonzalez's** father **Fidencio**—stage IV lymphoma, some improvement after 2nd chemo
 - **Linda Szymanski's** grandson **Slade**—broke elbow
 - **Letha Fink's** brother **Kenneth Morrison** of GA—liver disease, diagnosed with neuro-muscular disease
 - **Bill Dennis**—home recovery following rehab
 - **Noah Hadders's** teacher **Sharolyn Elmore**—chemo for breast cancer
 - **Larry Campbell's** FL partner **Terry Hargadine's** wife **Michelle**—cancerous lymph nodes removed, latest scan shows no new mass; chemo continues; **Terry**—second knee replacement
 - **Kayla Knighten, Christine Adams's** daughter, needs our prayers; **Judy Strand** requests prayer for her son **Joe**; pray **Ed's** son **Rodney Schulz** and **Sheryle's** daughter **Tiffany** receive the gospel; pray the **Wilkeses's** son **Mike** and grandson **Drew Lehner** return to the Lord.
 - **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; **Brett's** grandmother **Sue**, and Aunt **Connie Doss**—cancer returned
- CHRONIC CONDITIONS**
Christian Harrod; Addison Tope; Rocco Jr. Ann Cox; Logan Corray; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Orchid Cox—chronic blood clot condition
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Kirk Johnson—MS; **Amanda Mailloux**—IBS
Menards—Lloyd diabetes, Alzheimers; VA help;
Virginia, blindness from macular degeneration
Sandra Perry—diabetes complications; oxygen
Cheryl Reames—fibromyalgia; diverticulitis
Judy Sartin—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis
Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness
- *****
Travel The **Wilkeses** are cruising the Panama Canal with family. The **Corrays** will be in Steamboat Springs next weekend, Dec 18-20.
Bereaved **Letha Fink's** sister, **Alta Rendon**, passed away unexpectedly two weeks ago. **Letha** is in NM with her family. Please pray for them.
Rejoice The **Shreves** are expecting their first baby in April.



Exposing current trends attacks on religion

God CAN Fix This, by Tony Perkins

Of all the horrific shootings this country has suffered these past few years, last week's tragedy at San Bernardino may have been the most significant. Not because it took more lives than others, or even because of the gunmen's potential motives. No, the tragedy was more stunning because it prompted an even fiercer attack—on faith. Instead of turning to one another for strength in crisis, Americans turned *against* each other.

Led by a rabid media, the headlines were no longer about the victims and their grieving families—but about leaders who dared to do what the frightened people inside the killing ground asked: **pray**. Splashed with contempt across the front cover of the New York Daily News were the messages of several Republicans, whose natural reaction to tragedy was to turn where men since the first Continental Congress had, to God. "Our prayers are with the victims, their families, and the first responders in San Bernardino," Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) had tweeted. "Please keep the victims of #SanBernardino in your prayers," Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) urged.

In bold text, the Daily News cover screamed back, "GOD ISN'T FIXING THIS." It was a startling response—one that exploded through the darkest corners of Twitter "progressivism," until even a Connecticut senator, before anyone had an inkling of what had happened or why, lashed out with: "Your 'thoughts' should be about steps to take to stop this carnage. Your 'prayers' should be for forgiveness if you do nothing—again." Later, his office tried to clarify, but it was too late. Scores of angry liberal politicians made their point: This is no longer the America of 1774. Or even 2001. It's a new era of openly demonizing anyone with deep and sincere faith.

"As the latest batch of innocent Americans are left lying in pools of blood," the Daily News scoffed, "cowards who could truly end gun scourge continue to hide behind meaningless platitudes." Meaningless platitudes? Like the ones enshrined in our Constitution—or inscribed on our coins? How far we've fallen. Hours after a Muslim couple mowed down dozens of people in a quiet county office, the story isn't that they may have been radicalized in Saudi Arabia or had enough explosives to blow up a neighborhood block, but that the American people had the audacity to get on their knees and pray.

"At one time in American history," The Atlantic's Emma Green wrote wistfully, "liberals and conservatives shared a language of God, but that's clearly no longer the case; any invocation of faith is taken as implicit advocacy of right-wing political beliefs." The one constant in crisis—from Pearl Harbor to 9/11—was "In God We Trust." Now, the same party that voted God out of its platform is so hostile to Christians under President Obama that it begs the question: Is this culture of enmity so strong that it's actually motivating acts like this?

Despite what liberals would have you believe, hate is what drives men to slaughter innocent people—not guns. And the government can't make us
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Westside CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

- **adult Bible class**, A Life-Changing Encounter with Christ from "The Gospel According to John," Kenny Boyd

• sermon

Sunday afternoon

- **sermon**, "Questions Answered," DeWayne Howell

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of 2 Kings next Sunday evening, 12/20, 4 pm, at the Shreves' house, supper after reading. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.