

Church Without Walls - Raw transcript of interview:

CWW Week 30 – Sermonette On Hatred

Well, hi everyone, and welcome to week 30 of Church Without Walls, uh, ripping through these. Now we're getting close to, uh, we're well over halfway. So, uh, to our full year, our first full year, catching up on some sermons that I've missed out on due to travel commitments. Um, today we're into week 30, as I said, and the subject for today is hatred.

It's pretty topical at the moment because I'm seeing quite a bit of it, and it's a bit, uh, disconcerting to be honest with you. So, uh, I look forward to discussing this with you. So as always, before we start, let's bring the Holy Spirit in with prayer. Lord, father in heaven, we pray for your Holy Spirit. We pray that you will bring us discernment and, uh, truth as we unpack your word and that the words I speak and our, uh, interpretations of your word.

We will be pleasing to you and pleasing to your sight, we pray in Jesus' name, amen. While we're bringing the Holy Spirit in, as we always do to, uh, discern what we're talking about and how we interpret the Scripture, and for those of you who may be watching this as your first viewing of Church Without Walls, I suggest you go back to week one and start at week one.

Uh, most of you'll know the Church Without Walls. Is a, um, I guess the stepping stone of people for people who are coming into a relationship with Jesus Christ and stepping into their faith. So thank you for joining us. By all means, listen to this presentation, but uh, start at week one and also work through the daily devotionals associated with each week.

I'm very, very pleased to promote, uh, www.hoodiesbiblestudies.com and the links will be at the end of the page, at the end of the sermon, sorry, where you can, uh, get the address there and, and log in. And what you'll find at that website is a group of people in various locations who you can contact to guide you through Bible studies.

These are volunteers. They're wonderful people who have a heart to serve and they're looking forward to guiding you on your walk. So any Bible questions you may have, or, uh, if you'd like to start a Bible study, either by Zoom in person, if you live nearby or just over the phone, you can do that through www.hoodiesbiblestudies.com.

And I thank all those volunteers for their, their wonderful service as we kick this off in a big way. God bless you, and thank you so much. Um. You know, there's no profit in hatred. I, I, I'm of the belief that as hard as I try, I can't think of anyone that I hate. And when I talk about profit, I'm talking about spiritual profit.

When we hate other people, we give them the keys to our life, we give them the keys to our destiny. And I've often used the saying that people only drive you crazy if you give them the keys. So understanding this is vitally important. What good is it to keep hating people? Well, if you, if you hate somebody that has, that has hurt you, and obviously that's the reason you hate them, you're still giving them control.

And it may be years after the event, it's time to move on. It's time to let go and let God by forgiving. We talked about forgiveness early in the peace, but by forgiving, we're not saying we forget. What we're saying is that, uh, by harboring hatred, we're actually murdering them as the Bible verses will discuss going forward.

There are many people in recent years, political figures and, and others, media figures, et cetera, that, uh, many of you hate because you've been going through a pretty hard time with the pandemic and all the other associated issues with it. We've seen our society decimated. We've seen businesses collapse, we've seen relationships and families break down.

We've seen people die. Um, it's been a horrible five years and it's just a foretaste of what's to come. How are we gonna deal with all this pain and suffering that comes forward, uh, and, and is dumped on

our site? If we keep hating on everybody who does it, we have to make sure that they're held to account wherever possible.

Yes, that's vital because if we don't do that, we enable 'em to continue in bad behavior. But when we hate them, we're doing ourselves a lot more harm than we're doing them. So let's unpack this and see what the Bible says about it. I want you first to go to, uh, one John three 15 and, uh, that's in the New Testament.

The book of, uh, first John one John three 15. I hope you've all got your Bibles ready. It's good to go through them and find out where everything is. Um, hatreds equated with murder in God's eyes. This verse underscores how seriously God views hatred among believers. And we're on this journey to please God, because if we please God, while we may offend men, pleasing God is the way to eternal life.

And it's a way to live a life in truth, a life, uh, in encouragement, a life in authenticity, a life where we don't have to pretend. In one John three 15, the scripture says, anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer. And you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. What that means is if you hate somebody, um, you're effectively, you have hatred in your heart for them.

You're murdering them in your heart. And, uh, if you hate upon your brother, Jesus said this, if you hate upon your brother, it's, it's equivalent to murdering him. So as we think so, shall we act? It's a pretty, uh, it's a pretty clear process when we think about it. 'cause we've gotta see hatred as a sinful attitude.

'cause that's what it is. It's sinful. It's not what Jesus would do. Did Jesus hate anybody? I doubt that very much. Even knows he persecuted him. What did he say in the cross? Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Is that the sign of a man who hated somebody who was killing him? I don't think so.

Let's look, uh, at one John four 20. Uh, one John chapter four, verse 20. Hatred is opposed to love. Let's see what that has to say. This particular verse says is, is uh, stating basically that you can't claim to love God while harboring hatred towards others. 'cause God doesn't hate others. Jesus doesn't hate others, and we are meant to be created in his image and develop our character to suit and to match his character.

I. And love and hatred cannot coexist in a heart that is truly aligned with God. That gives me comfort because as I said at the very beginning, I can't think of anyone I hate. Why does it give me comfort? Because I'm starting to see that my character's being developed in Jesus, and I'm so grateful for that.

Uh, so one, one John four 20 says, whoever claims to love God yet hates his brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen gets back to faith again.

Uh, let's look at, uh, the next verse, which is Proverbs 10 and verse 12. Proverbs 10 and verse 12. Love is the highway. Um, love is the higher thought game. Um, this particular verse talks about hatred causing division and turmoil, which it does. And love promotes peace and healing, which is the exact opposite.

What would Jesus do? Um, it gets back to that again, 180 degrees to what we would do, obviously. What does the verse say? Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers overall wrongs. Once again, we can, uh, we've gotta remember that the things we hate about people is their behavior, not the person. You know, the Bible says, uh, to, to love the sinner, but hate the sin.

So when we realize that underneath every pain is, sorry, underneath every bad behavior that drives our hatred is a pain that drives that. It's another layer of hatred that drives bad behavior, and our hatred of others can drive bad behavior. Is that what you want? Is that how we develop our character in Christ?

Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs. Let's look at Romans 12, nine as our next verse. Romans 12, nine, uh, speaks of hatred should be directed towards evil, not people. So you can

hate the behavior, but love the, love, the, uh, behavior, I guess. And we are called to oppose sin, but love the sinner.

As I said earlier, I. Romans 12, nine says, love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and clinging to what is good. Hate evil behavior. Yes, I hate abortion. I hate the whole, uh, woke movement, but that's driven by an agenda that is caught people up in something that most people aren't aware of. As we cancel culture, cancel, cancel out, good people.

Cancel out God and cancel out his word. Let's look at, um, let's look at the next verse. Matthew 5 43 and 44. We talked about this last week. Um, and, uh, it says to, uh, to love your enemies as Jesus loved his enemies. Uh, Jesus radically redefines how to respond to hatred with love once again. What's the exact opposite of hatred is love.

This doesn't mean tolerating injustice, but refusing to let hate take root in your heart. Hear that again. It doesn't mean tolerating injustice. I'm not saying we should tolerate injustice. We should deal with injustice. And when justice is served and right is, uh, wrongs are righted, then it's up to us to come alongside those who've made the mistakes.

Isn't it better to have a society filled with healed people and people who are condemned all the time? How would it be if we were condemned for every behavior we committed that wasn't right? And that condemnation hung with us for the rest of our lives. Don't we appreciate, uh, grace and mercy when it's shown to us and forgiveness?

This is how we must deal with hatred. Matthew 5 43 44 says, you have heard that it was said. Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. I pray for the trolls who persecute me. It takes away all the angst that I feel. I sleep better at night.

Isn't that what you want to do? Don't we want to heal in this relationship with Jesus? I recall an incident where a man in church years ago was, uh, out of fear because he didn't want to continue in a recovery program. We started, started, uh, talking gossip about me and it was pretty hateful stuff. It was very hateful stuff.

I was getting, uh, people contacting me through the week saying, oh, this guy's really got it in for you. He said this about you. He said that about you. And it upset me. It got me to a point where I didn't wanna have anything to do with Christianity. I was only new in the faith. Um, as I sat in the, in my shed looking at the ceiling, perplexed about what the issue was that I was dealing with, I asked the question out loud, I don't know, Jesus, what would you do if you were me?

And then I thought about it and I thought, well, what would he do? Well, truth is he'd probably do the opposite to what I want to do. What do I wanna do? I want to go to this man and punch his lights out. What's the opposite to that? Jesus said, just love him. You don't know where his pain's coming from. And I felt instant relief and that following Saturday when I met him at church.

He was talking amongst friends of mine and badmouthing me as I walked up behind me and he didn't see me coming and I could hear what he was saying and it wasn't pleasant. And I put my hand on his shoulder and he looked at me and he said, what do you want? I said, how are you? He said, I'm all right, but what do you want?

I said, I feel compelled to tell you something. He said, what is it? I said, I love you, and I think that's all there is. He said, what did you say? I said, I love you, and I think that's all there is. Well, his shoulder slumped, he hugged me, dissolved into tears, and he said, praise God. I love you too. The problem went away.

It was gone, and it impressed the other men who heard it happen because they saw God's grace in action. Don't you like to be forgiven? Don't you like it when you know that you've done something that may cause people to hate you and they forgive you and and give you a pardon? That opens the door for you to apologize to me, which is a vitally implement whole process.

Let's go to our next verse. Galatians five, 19 to 21. Uh, hatred is a work of the flesh. Now I. Hatred is listed amongst other destructive behaviors that come from the sinful nature. I'm abbreviating this verse 19 to 21. In Galatians five, the acts of the flesh are obvious hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage.

Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What is the kingdom of God? Eternal life. Not only eternal life, when that time comes. Living a life that's worth living as we wait for that time to come. It's part of our character development. It's a vital component of our character development.

Hatred doesn't serve us or the person we're hating on. It just doesn't fit God's mold. And isn't that what we're about? Don't we want to do things better? Don't we want to do things differently? In summary, the Bible teaches that that hatred. Is listed among the other destructive behaviors that come from a sinful nature.

The Bible teaches that hatred is incompatible with the life in Christ. It leads to division, conflict, and spiritual death, the eternal death, and it must be replaced with love, forgiveness, and prayer even towards our enemies. Yes, justice must be served, but when true repentance is offered and accepted.

Everyone can move on and God wins and Satan loses instead of hatred. Believers are called on to reflect the love of God in every relationship. If you're dealing with hatred in yourself or others, the scriptures call for self-examination, repentance, and the pursuit of peace. Bless other meek, for thy shall inherit the earth.

Blessed other peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God. It's all there in the scripture. Peace of mind and serenity are at your fingertips. All you've gotta do is realize that there's no prophet in hate. Let's pray, shall we, Lord, father in heaven, we thank you for the discernment of the spirit.

We thank you for guiding and lead us through this talk today on hatred. We pray that we will glean something from the daily devotionals as I record them and glean it for myself, and that as others listen and read to them. Father God, we just pray that you will fill us with the fruits of the Spirit as your spirit helps us to discern our scripture readings.

Until we meet next week, we pray in Jesus' name, amen. God loves you. You created in his image, he doesn't create junk. You're special, you're precious, and you worth saving. May God bless you. Stay on the course and I'll see you next week and through the week on the Daily Devotionals, the Daily checkup. My name's Graham Hood from Church Without Walls.

Can't wait to see you again soon. Bye for now.