

"Hate" In the Bible

By Dave DeWitt

You may be wondering, "Why is DeWitt studying 'hate'? It's such a negative subject." Actually, I got the idea while doing a study from the Bible on "friendship," and came across the word for "hate" several times. I realized I did not know, with any precision, what it meant or why I was coming across it so often. Turns out, hate is a big subject in the Bible, with 190 references (150 Old Testament and 40 New Testament) which use either the Hebrew or Greek word for "hate." That alone makes it a worthy study. But hate also has a place in the plan of God and a significant role in a believer's path to maturity. This will be a bit of an inductive study as I take you with me on my journey, studying "hate."

- **John 15:19** *...because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*
- **Jude 23** *save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, **hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.***

Defining the Word *Hate*

Consider the underlined words as clues or synonyms leading to a definition.

- **Psalm 97:10** *Hate evil, you who love the LORD*
- **Hebrews 1:9** *Thou [God the Son] hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (KJV).*
- **Psalms 139:21-22** *Do I not **hate those who hate You**, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? **I hate them with the utmost hatred**; They have become my enemies*
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** *There are **six things which the LORD hates**, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him...*
- **Amos 5:21** ***I hate, I reject** your festivals...*
- **Romans 7:15** *For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but **I am doing the very thing I hate**.*
- **Proverbs 1:22** *How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing. And **fools hate knowledge**?*
- **Proverbs 5:12** *And you say, "How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof!*
- **Proverbs 1:29** *Because they **hated knowledge**, and did not choose the fear of the LORD.*
- **Romans 9:13** *Just as it is written, "**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated**.*

From these parallel words, we can conclude that the concept of hate in the Bible is contrasted with *love* and explained with words like *loathing, enemies, abomination, reject, do not like, scoffer, spurned, and did not choose*. So initially, we can conclude that hate in the Bible is some sort of negative judgment, which includes some sort of negative feeling, implying some sort of negative action. [Negative being something thought of as bad because of dislike or disapproval.]

Lexical Definitions of *Hate*

Here are two prominent lexical sources for defining the biblical words for "hate":

- The Old Testament Hebrew word for hate is שָׂנֵא (*sane*), "to hate, be an enemy...to be unloved...to be hated...be shunned; to be an adversary, be a foe; "hate" can be active, as an enemy or adversary; or passive, as someone unloved or shunned (K [Kohlenberger/Mounce] Hebrew Dictionary).

- The New Testament Greek word μισέω (*miseo*) is always translated as some form of hate, “to dislike strongly, with the implication of aversion and hostility” (Louw & Nida).

So we can understand hate as some intense **dislike** that implies some kind of **hostility**.

Dictionary Definitions of *Hate*

Here are three prominent dictionary sources for defining the English word “hate”:

- Wikipedia – “Hatred is a deep and emotional extreme dislike. It can be directed against individuals, groups, entities, objects, behaviors, or ideas. Hatred is often associated with feelings of anger, disgust and a disposition towards hostility.”
- Merriam-Webster – Hate is an “intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury.”
- New Oxford American Dictionary – To: “feel intense or passionate dislike for [someone] ...have a strong aversion to [something]...used politely to express one’s regret or embarrassment at doing something...express strong dislike for; criticize or abuse [edited as indicated].

We can see many parallels between the secular and biblical words for hate. Both include **dislike** and **hostility**. But there is one significance difference. Whereas the Bible sees hate as more of a decision resulting in a feeling, the English dictionaries see hate as more of a feeling resulting in a decision. I suspect that would be the case in most secular languages today. There would be some exceptions, but most of the time:

Secular hate = Sense of personal injury => feeling of dislike => decision which implies hostility.
 Biblical hate = Awareness of a violation => decision which implies hostility => feeling of dislike.

- Secular hate is more personal.
- Biblical hate is more positional.
- Secular hate tends to be based in some sense of personal injury.
- Biblical hate tends to be based in a violation of a moral or theological absolute.
- Both include an intense **dislike**. But the dislike is much more significant in secular hate because it is the basis of the hostility.
- Both include **hostility**. But the hostility is much more significant in biblical hate because it is based on the violation of a principle rather than a feeling of dislike.

In general, we can give this definition of hate in the Bible:

Hate in the Bible is a judgment based on a violation, resulting in an implication of hostility against a person, entity, or idea which may result in a strong dislike against that person, entity, or idea.

Or

Hate is a judgment that implies hostility.

If we were to explore secular hate (although we won’t do that), I would define it as

Hate is a dislike that implies hostility.

For example, in both world wars, America decided to go to war against Germany. Biblically, that's hate since it is a decision which implied hostility. The decision was based on what the German government was doing, not a personal dislike for individual Germans, although it may have led to that. But secularly, this was not hate because that would imply we disliked individual Germans and based our decision of hostility upon that feeling.

One more example. If a kid gets mad at a bully bothering him at school and decides to punch him out, that's secular hate. If a kid disagrees with his science teacher for teaching evolution and decides to oppose the teacher in class, that's biblical hate.

From now on we will focus our attention on biblical hate.

Implications from the Biblical Definition of Hate

1. Hate may be directed against people, entities, objects, behaviors, or ideas

Hate in the Bible often describes a decision directed against something other than people, such as against *dishonest gain, idols, falsehood, peace, or knowledge*. But when hate is directed against people, it is only appropriate when directed against people who hate God or His righteousness. It is never right to hate people just because they hate us.

- **Psalm 139:21-22** *Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies.*
- **Luke 6:27** *But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.*

2. Love invites hate, and hate reveals love

In the Bible, there are two prominent concepts of love: giving and affection. Since this is not a study on love, we will not distinguish between these two in the references to follow. Either giving or affection or both may be intended with the word "love." Biblical hate may be contrasted with either of these.

If you love someone, you will tend to hate what threatens that love. Any significant choice, feeling, commitment, or belief in or for something or someone involves (results in) some significant choice against something else. And the choice for one implies hostility toward whatever opposes that choice. **A positive choice implies a negative choice.** If a man tells his wife, "I love you, but I also love other women," she will probably not understand that as an expression of love. If you tell God, "I love you but I also love other gods, that's idolatry (*do not mention the name of other gods, nor let them be heard from your mouth* – Exodus 23:13).

When a significant choice is challenged or threatened, the threat results in a form of hate. If someone threatens someone you love, say, your family, you will respond with a judgment that implies hostility. The more significant your choice, commitment or belief, the greater your hate. If you love God and a family member threatens your love for God, then you will hate that family member. If you don't, then you don't love God more than your family. **If you don't hate anything, then you probably haven't made any significant choices.** For example, to choose truth is to hate false teaching, to love lies is to hate truth. This is why the world hated Jesus, and the apostles hated false teachers.

- **Matthew 6:24** *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
- **Luke 14:26** *If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

3. Hate looks back at anger or looks forward toward fear

This is more of a general observation than a biblical principle. Hate is a judgment, usually derived from fear of what will happen or anger about what did happen. So it is generally a judgment based upon anger from a past situation or fear of a future situation. We tend to hate people or ideas because of what they have done in the past, or what we expect them to do in the future, or both. Note the assumption of past behavior or presumed future action in most of the biblical uses of the world hate.



- **Psalm 5:5** *You hate all who do iniquity.*
- **Psalm 26:5** *I hate the assembly of evildoers.*
- **Psalm 31:6** *I hate those who regard vain idols, but I trust in the LORD.*

4. The spiritual life is a battle between two loves and the hate that results from each love

This is just the application, of what we have already observed, to the spiritual life. The spiritual life of the believer in Jesus Christ is a battle between the new nature we have in Christ provided by the Holy Spirit at salvation, and our old sin nature which we have inherited from Adam and Eve (Romans 6:6, 11; Ephesians 4:22, 24; Colossians 3:9). Our love for righteousness, coming from our new nature, causes us to hate (a judgment implying hostility toward) sin. Our love for sin, coming from our old sin nature, causes us to hate (a judgment implying hostility toward) righteousness.

- **Romans 7:15** *For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.*
- **Ephesians 4:22-24** *...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

5. Even though hate implies hostility toward an object, it does not necessarily involve the object in the hostility

As with affection, friendship, and romance, hate may only exist in the mind of the one doing the hating. Hate implies hostility, but the hostility may be confined to the mind of the hater. We can carry our hatred without involving others.

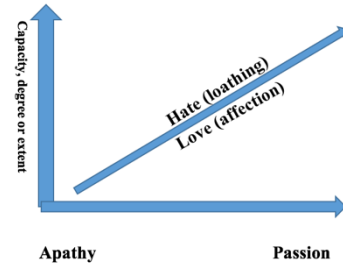
This can be either good or bad. It can be good, because we can deal with our illegitimate hate (by repentance, confession to God, and renewing our spirit) without disturbing others (Psalm 73) and without carrying out our hostility in physical judgment (Matthew 7:1). It can also be a bad thing if the hate builds up in our mind without dealing with it or expressing it (Luke 12:57).

- **Proverbs 26:24** *He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart.*
- **Galatians 6:1-2** *Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

6. Hate is never apathetic

Hate can be good, it can be bad, it can be of God, it can be of Satan, it can be an active detesting or a passive shunning, but it is never neutral, casual, impartial, or disengaged. Like fellowship, friendship, and love, hate is never born of apathy.

On a scale of apathy vs. passion, love and hate rise and fall together. Both love and hate will increase as feelings of passion increase. Both will decrease as apathy increases. **If hate is the opposite of love, apathy is the opposite of both of them.** A high degree of apathy erases any possibility of love or hate. A high degree of passion makes love and hate inevitable.



- **Judges 14:16** *Samson's wife wept before him and said, "You only hate me, and you do not love me."*
- **2 Samuel 13:22** *But Absalom did not speak to Amnon either good or bad; for Absalom hated Amnon because he had violated his sister Tamar.*

Samson's wife was not accusing him of apathy. She is accusing him of caring so much about his riddle that he is willing to make a judgment against her, knowing the solution. Absalom hated Amnon because he raped Absalom's sister Tamar. Absalom's hate was passionate because of his love, either for his sister Tamar, or his own need to defend her.

- **Matthew 10:22** *You will be hated by all because of My name.*
- **Luke 6:22** *Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.*

The world makes judgments resulting in hostility toward Bible-believing Christians. They may be apathetic about other religions, but they will be passionate about their hostility against Christians because the Bible threatens their love of evil.

7. Hate generates a response

- **Romans 9:13** *Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*

The very nature of hate implies hostility. God's hate for Esau (the Edomites) was because of, and proof of, His love for Jacob (the Israelites). When God hated Esau, it resulted in God making the mountain where they lived a desolation, destroying Esau's inheritance, tearing down what Esau built up, and God being indignant toward Esau. The nature of hate is to generate a response.

- **Malachi 1:2-5** *"I have loved Jacob; but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness." Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."*

When Hate Is Something Good, or Leads to Something Good

The overwhelming uses of *hate* in the Bible describe something good. Since hate is a response to love, **hate will be good when love is good.**

1. To be hated is good when we are hated because of something good

Technically, this is not good hate, but the result is good. Half of the uses of the word for “hate” in the gospels (11 out of 22) refer to the world hating (judging with hostility) Jesus and those who follow Him. This is because the world loves sin. It is good when believers are hated by the world for Christ’s sake because it indicates the love of true disciples for Jesus and His righteousness.

- **Luke 6:22** *Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.*
- **John 15:18-19** *If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

2. Hate is good when it is directed against those who hate God

There are times and situations where it is inappropriate to not hate. It is wrong to not hate evil and Satan’s evil world system.

- **Psalm 97:10** *Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones.*
- **Ecclesiastes 3:8** [There is] *A time to love and a time to hate.*
- **Amos 5:15** *Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate!*
- **Jude 23** *...save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*
- **Ephesians 6:11** *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

Not only is hate sometimes good, love is sometimes bad, when we *love those who hate the LORD.*

- **2 Chronicles 19:2** *Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD and so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?”*
- **Psalm 26:5** *I hate the assembly of evildoers, And I will not sit with the wicked.*
- **Psalm 31:6** *I hate those who regard vain idols, But I trust in the LORD.*
- **Psalm 139:21-22** *Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies*

3. It’s good to hate lying

- **Psalm 119:128** *Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.*
- **Psalm 119:163** *I hate and despise falsehood, But I love Your law.*
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** *There are six things which the LORD hates, yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that run rapidly to evil, a false witness who utters lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers.*
- **Proverbs 26:28** *A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.*
- **Zechariah 8:17** *“Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,” declares the LORD.*
- **John 8:44** *The devil...is a liar and the father of lies.*

4. It's good to hate divorce

- **Malachi 2:16** *“For I hate divorce,” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong.”*
- **Matthew 19:8** *He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way.*

5. It's good to hate “life in this world”

- **Ecclesiastes 2:17** *So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.*
- **Ecclesiastes 2:18** *Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun.*
- **John 12:25** *He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal.*

6. It's good to hate worship without righteousness

- **Isaiah 1:14-17** *I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me... Cease to do evil, learn to do good.*
- **Amos 5:21** *I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.*

7. It's good to hate pride

- **Proverbs 8:13** *The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverted mouth, I hate.*

8. It's good to hate false religions

- **Psalms 31:6** *I hate those who regard vain idols, but I trust in the LORD.*
- **Matthew 23:13** *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.”*
- **Revelation 2:6** *“Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”*

When Hate Is Something Bad, or Leads to Something Bad

1. It's bad to hate knowledge and instruction

Solomon said, *fools hate knowledge*. This means fools make a judgment that is hostile toward knowledge. For example, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and liberal Christianity define faith as a blind leap which is contrary to reason and knowledge. Those are foolish religions which define faith as something hostile toward knowledge. Leon Uris has a scene in his book “The Exodus” (about the Jews who return to Israel in the 1940s) where two old guys, a Jew and a Palestinian are talking. The Jew asked the Palestinian about the inconsistencies in the Islamic religion. The Palestinian said that he asked about that once when he was young and his Imam took him out and beat him until he could hardly walk, so he didn't ask any more. *Fools hate knowledge*.

- **Proverbs 1:22** *How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge?*
- **Proverbs 1:29** *Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD.*
- **Proverbs 5:12** *And you say, “How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof!*

- **Proverbs 12:1** *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.*

2. It's bad to hate to those who hate us

It's one thing to hate those who hate God, it's quite another to hate those who hate us. When we hate those who hate God, it reflects a love for God. When we hate those who hate us, it reflects a love for ourselves.

- **Proverbs 25:21** *If your enemy [lit. the one who hates you] is hungry, give him food to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*
- **Matthew 5:43** *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*
- **Titus 3:3** *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

3. It's bad to hate the Word of God

The world makes a judgment which implies hostility against things like truth and moral absolutes. The world hates the Word of God.

- **John 3:20** *For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.*
- **John 7:7** *The world...hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.*

4. It's bad to think people hate themselves

Admittedly, this is more about bad thinking than bad hate. Nonetheless, if we come to the conclusion that someone does what they do because they hate themselves, that's a bad analysis. Nobody ever hates themselves. For example, people who are depressed and suicidal for social (non-chemical) reasons, are so because they love themselves.

- **Ephesians 5:29** *...for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it...*
- **Matthew 22:39** *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

5. It's bad to hate other believers

Why is it especially forbidden for believers to hate fellow believers? Remember:

Biblical hate = Awareness of a violation => decision which implies hostility => feeling of dislike

Unbelievers are by definition unrepentant. So hate may be appropriate (as long as the hostility is about sin, not some personal vendetta, and is verbal, not physical). But believers are, by definition, repentant. Repentance results in salvation, which pays for our violations against God. That eliminates any implication of hostility, which dissolves any dislike. So hate for a fellow believer is inappropriate.

- **1 John 2:11** *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*
- **1 John 4:20** *If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

Some Application Questions

1. What about hate speech and hate crimes?

When Paul wrote to Titus, he talked a bit about what we were like before we became believers.

- **Titus 3:3** *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*
- *Foolishness*, comes from following the creation rather than the creator (Romans 1:18ff).
- Being *disobedient* and *deceived* come from following the “progressive” thoughts of the world rather than the Word of God (Psalm 1).
- Being *enslaved to various lusts and pleasures* comes from making ourselves, rather than God, the center of our world.
- But *spending our life in malice and envy, hating one another* sounds like exactly what is going on in our hate crimes and hate gatherings and protests.

What causes us to do that?

I asked myself, and many others, the question: “Why do people gather in protest against things, like guns, abortion, police, gay rights, racial issues, or immigration? I think I understand why most of the leaders are protesting. Although many of the original leaders may have been sincere, most movement leaders use hate to gain power or public notice and influence. For sure, it’s not to solve any problems. For example, consider Chicago. The leaders of “Black Lives Matter” are not protesting in Chicago, where there are about 11 shootings a day (about 4,000 a year) and most are black-on-black. Gun control leaders don’t talk about Chicago either, which has one of the strictest gun control laws in the nation. Many protest leaders get their power by fueling the hate involved in the protests. They need to keep the problem going, and if possible, grow it to greater media coverage.

But my question is, “Why do people come out and join in these hate-based protests?” I have received many good answers: “They feel unable to capture an economic advantage from our capitalistic system,” “They want to identify with something bigger than themselves,” or “They sympathize with something being protested.” Giving them the benefit of the doubt, I would say most of the protesters want to, in some way, change the world to make it better. So (oversimplified) many leaders are after power, and most of the people are trying to fix the world in some way.

But the reality is, anytime we try to fix the world in some way, we end up *spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another*. For example, if you help a pregnant teenager, that’s an act of love. If you try to eliminate teen pregnancy, you will end up in a hate campaign. If you help someone who is poor, that’s an act of compassion. If you try to eliminate poverty, you’ll end up in a hate-based movement. The Muslims terrorists do it. The “Black Lives Matter” movement does it. The Ku Klux Klan does it. Democrats do it. Republicans do it. Liberals, conservatives, religious people, and atheists do it. The people who are trying to fix the world according to their concept of how the world should be fixed, will find themselves in *malice and envy, hateful, hating one another*. The more passionate they are about their cause, the more likely they are to hate those who oppose their cause.

2. Do Christians who are trying to improve the world, promote hate?

Next, I asked myself, “What was the objective of Jesus when He was in the world?” Jesus influenced the world more than anyone who has ever walked the earth. So what were His goals? Interestingly, Jesus had the biggest impact on society of anyone who ever lived, yet He never did anything with the goal of impacting society. He did nothing about promoting world peace, or improving the world politically, socially, culturally, or financially. His only objective was to please His Heavenly Father by carrying out the work the Father gave Him to do (John 17:4). Jesus healed sick people, fed hungry people, and taught ignorant people. But He did it because it pleased God the Father, not as a movement to improve the world.

- **John 18:36** *Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting...”*

The focus of Jesus was a heavenly perspective, not the betterment of this earth. Therefore, He motivated His disciples with eternal salvation, not hate for this world’s causes. Since the disciples of Jesus had no ambitions to change, fix, or improve the world, they could leave the arena of hate for this world’s causes and operate in the arena of love (giving or affection) for one another, orphans, widows, poor, the needy, even their enemies. The only hate that Jesus mentioned was aimed at those who opposed God and an eternal perspective. When Christians get involved in improving the world, they enter into the realm of hate for those opposing their causes, just like everyone else who has an earthly cause.

Jesus said, *I will build My church* (Matthew 16:18). He did not ask us to build one for Him. He asked us to pray: *Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven* (Matthew 6:10), which He will do at the Second Coming. He did not ask us to build a kingdom for Him on earth. When we get involved in building things on earth, we inevitably end up hating those who oppose our doing that.

Jesus is building His own church in the midst of a world of hate. Love exists in the midst of a world of hate because it’s not trying to fix the world of hate. Our efforts to fix this world not only cultivate hate, they are also a waste of time. Before Jesus brings in His own kingdom, the antichrist will bring in his. That’s the direction in which the world today is “progressing.” God will then put an end to the antichrist’s world with a time of *great tribulation* (Matthew 24:21) and His Second Coming, which will destroy all their “progress.”

- **Matthew 24:10 & 12** *At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another...Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.*

People will *hate one another* at the time when their efforts to improve the world will fail. Then Jesus will return and set up His kingdom (Zechariah 14; Matthew 24; Revelation 19). The kingdom of Jesus will be established by His Second Coming, not by our efforts to establish it for Him. All of our efforts to fix the world for God will only lead to *spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another* (Titus 3:3).

3. Would it be good to have a world without hate?

Would it be good to have what every beauty pageant contestant wishes for “world peace?” What if peace replaced war, love replaced hate, and “tolerance” was applied to everything? Several authors and screen writers have dealt with the idea of a world without hate, crime, or war. Interestingly, they always come up with a world without emotions. That’s because it’s obvious that, in order to have global tolerance, we must have global apathy, where no one is passionate about anything.

Let’s consider what happens when I tolerate everyone’s lifestyle and life positions. The progressive theory is that we should tolerate everyone’s beliefs and actions as long as they do not harm others. Well, there are three ways to do that:

1. I can have no values or beliefs of my own. The less I believe, the more I can tolerate. If I actually tolerate everything everyone believes, then I have no convictions of my own at all. If I believe something a little bit, then I become a little bit intolerant. If we have a chocolate bar and you eat the whole thing, I will become a bit intolerant of your action. Unless, I don’t like chocolate. The way to tolerate everything is to be apathetic about everything. Complete

apathy would indeed eliminate hate, but it would also eliminate love, caring, and compassion. It would eliminate the deeds of the flesh, but it would also eliminate the fruits of the spirit (Galatians 5:19-23). If I care about anything, then I will, as part of that caring, hate (make a judgment that implies hostility toward) that which threatens what I care about. One way to have true tolerance is to have no convictions. Zombies tolerate everything.

2. I can realize someone's life position matters and act as if it doesn't. For example, I can tolerate the Muslim religion, Mormonism, or the Jehovah's Witnesses, even though I understand them to be dangerous false teaching leading people to hell. But then I am falsifying my beliefs. If I consider your position false or dangerous, and I determine to tolerate it, then I am only pretending to tolerate it. I simply lie to you and others, by giving the impression that what you believe is okay with me, when it isn't.
3. I can tolerate you if I don't care about you. I can have convictions and tolerate your convictions that are contrary to mine, as long as your convictions don't affect me and I don't care what happens to you. If I don't care about you, then I will have no problem tolerating what you think, believe, or understand. I can tolerate you if I am completely self-centered.

So, in order to tolerate the beliefs, thoughts, and understanding of others, I need to be: (1) indifferent, (2) a deceiver, or (3) completely self-centered. A world without hate would need to be a world of zombies, liars, or narcissists. Which, by the way, is pretty much what our "progressive" emphasis on tolerance is producing.

4. Isn't heaven a world without hate?

Heaven is without hate among the saints and the angels. Plus, there is no need for tolerance because they all agree with the truth of the Word of God. But it is not without hate and intolerance for sin and those who are unrepentantly committed to it. The Apostle John saw saints in heaven who were martyred during the upcoming tribulation period. They *cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth"* (Revelation 6:10)? Hate is judgment that implies hostility. That's exactly what these heavenly saints are asking for. Their hate is a judgment that asks God to carry out the hostility.

In the eternal state, the New Jerusalem, there is also peace without any need for tolerance within the holy city. But there is no tolerance for the sin of the sinners who are *outside*.

- **Revelation 22:14-15** *Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.*

5. Is hate an attribute of God?

Hate is not an attribute of God. Love is an attribute of God.

- **1 John 4:8 & 16** *The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. ... We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

Nonetheless, we know that God does hate.

- **Psalm 5:5** *You hate all who do iniquity.*
- **Proverbs 6:16-19** *There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an*

abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.

- **Isaiah 1:14** *I hate your new moon festivals and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me.*
- **Amos 5:21** *I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.*
- **Zechariah 8:17** *“Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,” declares the LORD.*
- **Revelation 2:6** *Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

How is it that a loving God can hate? Because God is not only love. God is a God of love, but God is also a God of truth, justice, and holiness. The love of God responds to humility and repentance (Isaiah 66:1-2; Matthew 3:2; 4:17). The justice of God pours out wrath on unrepentant sin.

- **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*
- **John 3:36** *He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*
- **Romans 1:18** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.*

Since God is by nature holy, just, and true, He cannot tolerate unrepentant sin. His nature requires a decision against sin which results in hostility. That’s the biblical definition of “hate.”

6. Is there a (dispensational) difference for hate in this (church/grace) age?

Hate is a decision that implies hostility, in our (church/grace dispensation) age

Most things about hate are the same in all ages. The definition of the New Testament Greek word for hate [μισέω (*miseo*)] is basically the same as the Old Testament Hebrew word [שָׂנֵא (*sane*)].

- **Matthew 10:22** *You will be hated by all because of My name.*
- **Luke 6:22** *Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.*
- **Jude 23** *...on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*

Hate is also directed toward people, in our (church/grace dispensation) age

Preachers are fond of saying, “Hate the sin, but love the sinner.” That seems a bit strange because you can’t have sin without a sinner. Sins don’t just commit themselves. At any rate, the New Testament also tells us to hate the sinner. Choosing someone or something still requires not choosing someone or something else. And when a loving choice is made, it includes hate for opposition to that choice.

- **Matthew 6:24** *No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
- **Luke 14:26** *If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*
- **Romans 9:13** *Just as it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”*
- **Revelation 2:6** *Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

Hate implies verbal hostility, not physical justice, in our (church/grace dispensation) age

Why did God tell Joshua and Saul to *utterly destroy* the Canaanites, defined as *do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey* (Joshua 6:21; 1 Samuel 15:3)? Even in the upcoming Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will *rule them with a rod of iron* (Revelation 2:27; 19:15). Yet Christ and the apostles gave no such mandate to the church. There is one clear difference between this and the other ages. In the other ages (administrations or dispensations), the directives of God, and hence the goals of believers, included some involvement in the physical world.

Adam and Eve were to *Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth* (Genesis 1:28). This was not a cultural mandate, but it was a physical mandate concerning the welfare of the earth. Noah was also told to *Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth* with some different commands concerning the animals (Genesis 9:1). Abraham was told to leave his home country, go to the land of Canaan, and to believe he would have descendants who would live in that land. Joshua and the kings were told to rid the land of the Canaanites and their idols. In the Millennial Kingdom there is a rule of righteousness on the earth. All of these are earthly mandates and will include hate, resulting in physical hostility toward people on earth who hinder those mandates.

Unlike God's directives to many Old Testament saints, Jesus gave His disciples no earthly mandate. With Jesus, it was all about heaven and eternal life. This changed the focus of hate from physical hostility toward what would keep people from heaven and eternal rewards.

- **Matthew 16:26** *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*
- **Ephesians 6:12** *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Jesus never got in a fist fight, but Matthew 23 has been called the harshest language ever used by anyone against any people group in all of history. The apostles never got in a fist fight either, but false teachers, false prophets, and false teaching are strongly condemned in every book of the New Testament except Philemon.

- **Matthew 23:15** *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*
- **Galatians 1:9** *...if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed.*
- **Galatians 5:12** *I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.*
- **Jude 12** *These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.*

We cannot definitively say why hostility of hate is only verbal for this age, but it does coincide with earthly mandates being changed to an exclusively heavenly focus.

Even the full hostility of God's hate for sinners is postponed until after this age of grace

- **John 1:17** *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*

God may carry out some form of judgment on certain individuals for a specific purpose in this age (Romans 1:18; 1Corinthians 11:30), but this is not the age where all acts are brought into judgment. Before this age, God judged Israel and the nations impacting Israel. The same will be true in the coming Millennial Kingdom, where Jesus will *rule them with a rod of iron* (Revelation 2:27; 19:15). But this is the age of grace, Jesus *did not come to judge the world but to save the world* (John 12:47). Jesus does judge sin. Actually, *not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son* (John 5:22). When John witnessed a revelation of the Second Coming, he said, *I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war* (Revelation 19:11). Peter explained that the lack of judgement today does not mean that there will be no judgment, only that this is not the age of judgment.

- **2 Peter 3:7 & 9-10** *But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men... The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief...*

Conclusion

In the Bible, hate is a decision that implies hostility. It is a decision, based on the rationale that something loved has been violated, or will be violated. Hate can be either good or bad, depending on whether the object of the love that is violated is good or bad. It's bad to hate what's good, and it's good to hate what's bad (that which violates good). It is insufficient to say one must simply love what is good, because love implies hate. If love does not involve hate, then the love is not very significant. Apathy allows for neither love or hate.

By way of application we can conclude:

- Hate for people is a byproduct of a focus on earth, attempting to make life here better for oneself or society, rather than an eternal focus.
- A world without hate would be a world of zombies, liars, or narcissists.
- Although there is no hate among the saints in heaven, there is hate for the sin outside of it.
- Hate is not an attribute of God, but God is love and God hates because He loves.
- Hate is the same in all ages, but physical hostility is deferred until the church is removed.

If you think, if you love, if you care, if you are merciful, if you desire goodness, then hate is part of it.

Appendix

Scripture Used in the Study on Hate

- **Exodus 18:21** *Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who **hate dishonest gain**; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens.*
- **Exodus 20:5** *“You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who **hate Me**.”*
- **Judges 14:16** *Samson’s wife wept before him and said, “**You only hate me**, and you do not love me.”*
- **2 Samuel 13:22** *But Absalom did not speak to Amnon either good or bad; for **Absalom hated Amnon** because he had violated his sister Tamar.*
- **2 Samuel 19:6** [Joab to David about David’s morning for Absalom] *by loving those who hate you, and by hating those who love you.*
- **2 Chronicles 19:2** *Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “**Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD** and so bring wrath on yourself from the LORD?”*
- **Psalms 5:5** *The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You **hate all who do iniquity**.*
- **Psalms 9:13** *Be gracious to me, O LORD; See my **affliction from those who hate me**.*
- **Psalms 26:5** ***I hate the assembly of evildoers**, And I will not sit with the wicked.*
- **Psalms 31:6** ***I hate those who regard vain idols**, But I trust in the LORD.*
- **Psalms 44:10** *You cause us to turn back from the adversary; And those who **hate us** have taken spoil for themselves.*
- **Psalms 97:10** ***Hate evil**, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones.*
- **Psalms 101:3** *I will set no worthless thing before my eyes; **I hate the work of those who fall away**; It shall not fasten its grip on me.*
- **Psalms 119:104** *From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I **hate every false way**.*
- **Psalms 119:113** ***I hate those who are double-minded**, But I love Your law.*
- **Psalms 119:128** *Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything, **I hate every false way**.*
- **Psalms 119:163** ***I hate and despise falsehood**, But I love Your law.*
- **Psalms 120:6** *Too long has my soul had its dwelling with **those who hate peace**.*
- **Psalms 129:5** *May all who **hate Zion** Be put to shame and turned backward.*
- **Psalms 139:21-22** *Do I not **hate those who hate You**, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies.*
- **Proverbs 1:22** *“How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing And **fools hate knowledge**?”*
- **Proverbs 1:29** *Because they **hated knowledge** And did not choose the fear of the LORD.*
- **Proverbs 5:12** *And you say, “How I have hated instruction! And my heart spurned reproof!”*
- **Proverbs 6:16- 19** *There are **six things which the LORD hates**, Yes, **seven** which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.*
- **Proverbs 8:13** *“The **fear of the LORD is to hate evil**; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.*

- **Proverbs 12:1** *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, But **he who hates reproof is stupid.***
- **Proverbs 13:5** *A **righteous man hates falsehood**, But a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully.*
- **Proverbs 25:21** *If your enemy [lit. the **one who hates you**] is hungry, give him food to eat; And if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.*
- **Proverbs 26:24** ***He who hates** disguises it with his lips, But he lays up deceit in his heart.*
- **Proverbs 26:28** *A **lying tongue hates** those it crushes, And a flattering mouth works ruin.*
- **Proverbs 28:16** *A leader who is a great oppressor lacks understanding, But he who **hates unjust gain** will prolong his days.*
- **Ecclesiastes 2:17** *So **I hated life**, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.*
- **Ecclesiastes 2:18** *Thus **I hated all the fruit of my labor** for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me.*
- **Ecclesiastes 3:8** *A time to love and a **time to hate.***
- **Isaiah 1:14** ***“I hate your new moon festivals** and your appointed feasts, They have become a burden to Me.*
- **Jeremiah 44:4** *‘Yet I sent you all My servants the prophets, again and again, saying, “Oh, do not do this abominable thing **which I hate.**”*
- **Amos 5:15** ***Hate evil**, love good, And establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the LORD God of hosts May be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*
- **Amos 5:21** ***I hate, I reject your festivals**, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies.*
- **Zechariah 8:17** *“Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what **I hate,**” declares the LORD.*
- **Malachi 2:16** *“For **I hate divorce,**” says the LORD, the God of Israel, “and him who covers his garment with wrong.”*

- **Matthew 5:43** *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor **and hate your enemy.**’ But I say to you love your **enemies** and pray for those who persecute you.”*
- **Matthew 6:24** *No one can serve two masters; for either he will **hate** the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other.*
- **Matthew 10:22** ***You will be hated** by all because of My name.*
- **Luke 6:22** *“**Blessed are you when men hate you**, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.”*
- **Luke 6:27** *“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, **do good to those who hate you.**”*
- **Luke 14:26** *“If anyone comes to Me, and does not **hate his own** father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”*
- **John 3:20** *“For everyone who does evil **hates the Light**, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”*
- **John 7:7** *“The world cannot hate you, but it **hates Me** because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.”*
- **John 12:25** *“He who loves his life loses it, and **he who hates his life** in this world will keep it to life eternal.”*
- **John 15:18** *“If the **world hates you**, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.”*
- **John 15:19** *“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this **the world hates you.**”*
- **John 15:23** *“**He who hates Me hates My Father also.**”*
- **Romans 7:15** *“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would*

*like to do, but **I am doing the very thing I hate.***”

- **Romans 9:13** *Just as it is written, “**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**”*
- **Ephesians 5:29** *for **no one ever hated his own flesh**, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church.*
- **Titus 3:3** *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, **hateful**, hating one another.*
- **1 John 2:11** *But the **one who hates his brother** is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*
- **1 John 3:13** *Do not be surprised, brethren, if **the world hates you.***
- **1 John 3:15** *Everyone who **hates his brother** is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*
- **1 John 4:20** *If someone says, “I love God,” and **hates his brother**, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*
- **Jude 23** *save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, **hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.***
- **Revelation 2:6** *“Yet this you do have, that you **hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**”*