

“Hatred”

Matt 5:43-48

Introduction

- I. First century Jews misunderstood why they were to be separate from the Gentiles.
 - A. Apparently, some had the idea that being separate meant that they were to hate the Gentiles.
 - B. Jesus corrected their mistake (Matt. 5:43-48).
- II. This study of hatred will consist of three subheadings.
 - A. What is hatred?
 - B. What are results of hatred?
 - C. How can we overcome hatred?

Discussion

- I. What is hatred?
 - A. A simple definition of hatred/hate is “the opposite of loving/love”.
 - B. God has personified love (1 Cor. 13:4-8).
 - C. Hatred is one of “the works of the flesh” (Gal. 5:19-21).
 1. Hatred is included with some of the worst things that a man can do.
 2. It will cause a soul to be lost.
 - D. Hatred is a trait of one who is spiritually immature and ungodly (Matt. 5:48; 1 John 4:8).
 - E. Not all hatred is bad/wrong.
 1. We must hate the things that God hates (Psm. 97:10; 119:104, 128; Prov. 6:16-19).
 2. We should hate sin, but love the sinner (John 3:16).
- II. What are the results of hatred?
 - A. The brothers of Joseph are examples of what can happen when hatred exists (Gen. 37:3-5, 18-28).
 - B. Cain is another example of what can happen when hatred exists (Gen. 4:1-8; Heb. 11:4; 1 John 3:11-15).
 - C. Hatred is often followed by wicked speaking (Prov. 26:24; Gen. 37:4).
 - D. Haman is an example of how hatred can lead to obsession and eventual destruction (Esther 5:9-14; 7:8-10).
 - E. “What a person eats is not as important as the bitter spirit, the hates, and the feelings of guilt that eat at him” (Dr. S.I. McMillen; None of These Diseases, p. 69).
- III. How can we overcome hatred?
 - A. LOVE, LOVE, and MORE LOVE (John 13:34; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 Pet.4:8; 1 John 4:7-5:3)!
 - B. Vardeman Forrister wrote three steps in “Overcoming Hate With Love”.
 1. “Pray for the person you hate” (Matt. 5:44).
 2. “Find something good to do for the person you hate; return good for evil” (Rom. 12:17-21).
 - a. Speak complimentary to him.
 - b. When he is sick, send him a card or visit him.
 - c. Be friendly to him.
 3. “Sincerely try to understand the person you hate” (1 Cor. 2:11; 1 Tim. 6:3-5).
 - C. “I will not let any man reduce my soul to the level of hatred” (Booker T. Washington).