

But It's Wrong! Can't I Hate It?

Ecclesiastes 3:8: (NASB) *A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.*



It was just a few weeks ago that the events in Charlottesville, Virginia, sparked a firestorm of vitriol and reaction throughout our country. What happened, what did not happen, who reacted and how? All these things became the fuel for more protests and more protests against the protests and reaction of a very negative kind everywhere you look. Let us be abundantly clear on one point - those who would paint themselves as any form of supremacist, white or otherwise, are servants of a deep and destructive darkness. Period.

Those who take the law into their own hands and use violence and threats as their primary tools to eradicate all whom they consider supremacists are also choosing to burrow down that dark hole as well. NONE of this is good! All of this provokes hatred and rightfully so. Should we not as Christians hate such evil? Yes, we should. The bigger question here - HOW do we engage our hatred for evil in a Christlike manner?

We prepared this podcast in response to the "Unite the Right" rally that occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia, from August 11-12, 2017. As documented in various Wikipedia articles, the rally was organized to protest the removal of the Confederate general Robert E. Lee statue. Protesters included white supremacists, white nationalists, neo-Confederates, neo-Nazis and various militias. During clashes between rally members and counter-protesters, a white nationalist drove a vehicle into counter-protestors who were heading to the rally, killing one person and injuring 19 others. A police helicopter crash resulted in two police fatalities.

After this program was announced, the southeast coast of Texas was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. At the time of this printing, many lost their lives, millions are without homes and property losses are estimated in the tens of billions. We pray for God's righteous kingdom, a time when both men's hearts and the earth itself will be healed and reconciled back to God for all of eternity. We were very humbled by the fundraising of a local Houston football player, JJ Watt. If our listeners are so moved to donate, they can do so at YouCaring.com/JJWatt.

Merriam Webster:

Hate: noun

Usage: often attributive

1 a: intense hostility and aversion usually deriving from fear, anger, or sense of injury

b: extreme dislike or antipathy

 **Introduction, *The Science Behind What Makes People Hate*, CNN**

- *Protests, assaults, terror attacks...there seems to be a whole lot of hate in the United States nowadays. But what exactly is hate? (yelling) Most of our feelings come in four basic flavors: happy, sad, angry and afraid. But hate, it turns out, is a different emotion entirely, even from a biological perspective. It was about a decade ago researchers pinpointed what has come to be known as the brain's hate circuit. They put study participants into an MRI and showed them pictures of people that they had neutral feelings about. Then they also showed them pictures of people that they hated, in this case perhaps an ex-lover or competitor at work, and they found certain parts of their brains lit up, and these parts of the brain play a big role in generating aggressive behavior and then translating that behavior into action. All in all, a bad combination fueled by competitiveness or sense of loss.*

Productive
hatred



Our first premise is there are two basic types of hatred from a Christian perspective: Productive hatred and destructive hatred.

Productive hatred stems from and is an objective response to that which would destroy goodness and righteousness. This is the type of hatred God has and what we should strive for.

God watched and warned Israel:

Deuteronomy 25:13-16: (NASB) ¹³You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. ¹⁴You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. (used to deceive someone) ¹⁵You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. ¹⁶For everyone who does these things, everyone who acts unjustly is an **abomination** <8441> to the LORD your God.

Abomination: Strong's #8441, something disgusting (morally), i.e. (as noun) an abhorrence; especially idolatry or (concretely) an idol

Is it productive to hate things that are wrong? Was it productive for God to warn against stealing and explaining they would be punished if they did not listen? Yes.

Taught to hate, Born to Hate Jews, PragerU

I was born to hate Jews. It was part of my life. I never questioned it. I was not born in Iran or Syria; I was born in England. My parents moved there from Pakistan. Theirs was a typical immigrant story: Move to the west in the hope of making a better life for themselves and their children. We were a devout Muslim family, but not extremist or radical in any way. We only wished the best for everyone - everyone, except the Jews. The Jews, we believed, were aliens living in stolen Muslim land, occupiers who were engaged in a genocide against the Palestinian people. Our hatred, therefore, was justified and righteous. And it made me and my friends vulnerable to the arguments of radical extremists.

Destructive hatred stems from a personal and emotional perspective that may or may not have a basis of justification. It sees and feeds a frenzied and rash type of reaction.

This is the most popular kind of hatred, the kind which we will naturally adopt. It is bad for everyone.

David talks of being hated in the following Psalm. Bible commentaries speculate on who he was referring to. The two top possibilities are King Saul (whose hatred of David was unjustified) or Ahithophel (who had some justification). Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather. When David had her husband murdered, one could see a justifiable reason for her grandfather to hate David.

Psalms 109:1-5: (NASB) ¹O God of my praise, do not be silent! ²For they have opened the wicked and deceitful mouth against me; they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. ³They have also surrounded me with words of hatred, and fought against me without cause. ⁴In return for my love they act as my accusers; But I am in prayer. ⁵Thus they have repaid me evil for good and hatred for my love.





Hatred needs monitoring. What about hating our own lives - is there a right and wrong way to do it?

King Solomon wrote our theme text as a result of his exasperation with his own life and this gives us another place to look when we want to *root out destructive hatred*. Hating circumstances, ourselves or our lives has devastating effects on our ability to clearly see and react to the world around us.



King Solomon was the wisest man on earth. He was powerful, benevolent and as wealthy as wealthy could be. He grew to hate himself and his life. How did he get to that point? Not liking ourselves can skew our ability to see others in a proper light. Our judgment can go from being just to being hurtful and contributing towards destructive hatred.

Solomon's problem was that he grew to be too wealthy and egotistical to manage his own life, and in spite of his great wisdom, he ended up hating his life. *His hatred was from the inside out*. Here are some elements that fed his self-loathing, a place where destructive hatred takes root and grows against others:



SOLOMON'S WISDOM WAS NOT TEMPERED WITH HUMILITY AND HE SAW HIMSELF AS ABOVE OTHERS.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹I said to myself, come now, I will test you with pleasure. So, enjoy yourself. And behold, it too was futility. ²I said of laughter, it is madness, and of pleasure, what does it accomplish? ³I explored with my mind how to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding me wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

Solomon's depth of wisdom was not tempered with humility, even though it was God who specifically gave him that wisdom.

Until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives - In other words, "...until I could see if other peoples' lives were worth anything at all." He was looking down on them.

Our lives can get lost in being dissatisfied with ourselves, which we can take out on others. When our ego is so fully engaged it becomes far easier to see others as irrelevant and futile.

 **Badge of honor, Born to Hate Jews, PragerU**



- If the Jews were as evil as we always believed, mustn't those who support them - Christians, Americans and others in the West be just as evil? Beginning in the 1990's, speakers and teachers of mosques and in schools began to endlessly repeat this theme: We were not Western. We were not British. We were Muslims, first and only. Our loyalty was to our religion and to our fellow Muslims. We owed nothing to the Western nations that welcomed us. As Westerners, they were our enemies. All of this had its desired effect. At least it did on me. It changed the way that I saw the world. I began to see the suffering of Muslims, including in Britain, as the fault of Western imperialism. The West was at war with us, and the Jews controlled the West. My experience at university in Britain only enhanced my increasingly radical beliefs. Hating Israel was a badge of honor.*



**SOLOMON'S EXISTENCE CAME TO BE FOCUSED
ONLY UPON HIMSELF.**

Ecclesiastes 2:9-10: (NASB) ⁹Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. ¹⁰All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor.

I became great - "It is all about me and my wants" is an insatiable way to live and will eventually crash.

When we get so self-absorbed with greed and ego, we look down on others and can start to hate them because they are not like us or did not respect us as much as we think we deserve. That is what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia. The perpetrators were all about "me." Should we hate the wrong? Absolutely. But how?



**SOLOMON COULD STILL SEE REALITY,
THOUGH IT BEGAN TO LOSE ITS MEANING.**

Ecclesiastes 2:12-13: (NASB) ¹²So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; for what will the man do who will come after the king except what has already been done? ¹³And I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness.

"I, Solomon, have built these incredible gardens and buildings and done these incredible things. When I die, some peon of a human being who is not nearly as smart as me will take it all over. All I have done will go to waste because I will not be there in my wise state to manage it." He removed himself from others and put himself in his own category.

I saw that wisdom excels folly as light excels darkness - he had the clarity to see it, but it did not change him.

Having some clarity in the context of greed and ego gives a false sense of security and can feed hatred.



**SOLOMON GAVE UP AS HIS INSATIABLE APPROACH
BROUGHT HIM NOTHING BUT FRUSTRATION.**

Ecclesiastes 2:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵Then I said to myself, as is the fate of the fool, it will also befall me. Why then have I been extremely wise? So, I said to myself, "This too is vanity. ¹⁶For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man as with the fool... ¹⁷So 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.

I hated life - even after all of his incredible accomplishments. If he could not be the one to control things forever and always be the one on top, then it was all futile. He had resentment towards others.

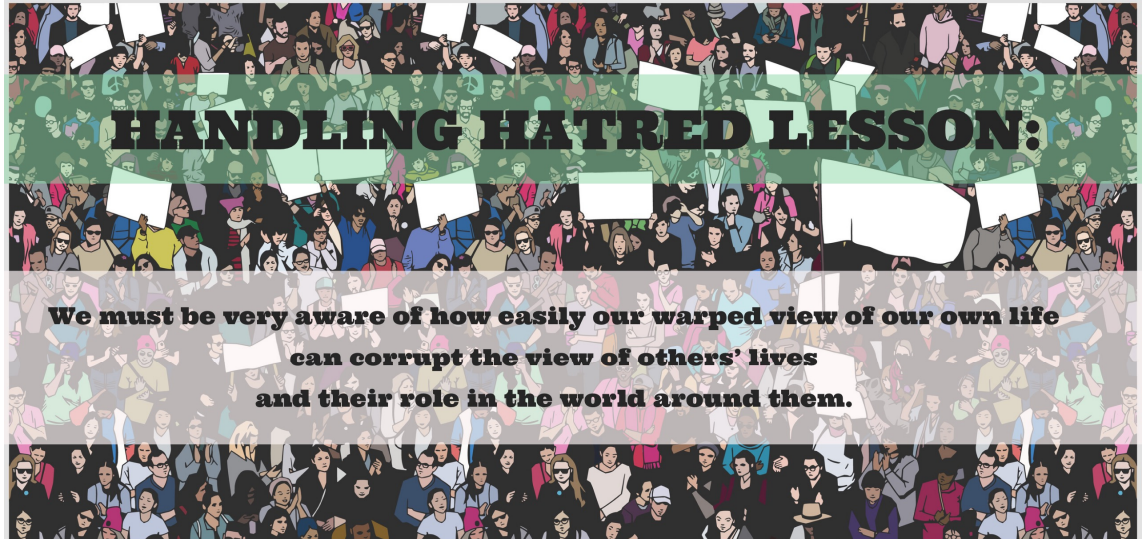
Destructive self-hatred completely warps our ability to see any good around us.

 **Roots, LaDainian Tomlinson, Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech and Interviews**

- I grew up on the land of a former slave plantation, and although I didn't know this as a child, it is where my great-great-great grandfather tilled the soil. My story is America's story. I'm a mixed race and I represent America. My name*

began with the man who owned my great-great-great grandfather. Now it's proudly carried by me, my children, my extended family.

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Thus 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. ¹⁹And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool?



**Hatred from the “inside out” is obviously destructive.
What about hatred from the “outside in”?**

After King Solomon’s tirade about nothing mattering, his next Ecclesiastes writing basically says that everything has its time and place and there is nothing anyone can do about it no matter how rich or wise they are. This is a good observation, though it comes about through a not-so-good process, because he was miserable. He did not say, “These are gifts from God I should appreciate.” He was not able to be powerful from a godly manner because he was “off” on the inside, and he looked at everyone else with disdain.

 **Love and hate, *The Science Behind What Makes People Hate*, CNN**

- *Do you know that saying, “There’s a thin line between love and hate?” Well, it turns out that’s rooted in science as well. Much of the brain’s hate circuit also fires up when you feel romantic love and like love, there’s evidence of hatred dating back to our oldest ancestors. For instance, it was likely the emotion of hate that made early hunter-gathers feel okay about taking food away from their rivals in order to survive. In today’s world when people become frustrated, insecure or afraid of losing something - like their job, neighborhood or their power, they can become filled with hate, and again, they can act out to save what they think they’re losing.*

The emotion of love and hate light up the same part of the brain. Hate is a powerful emotion. Most of us think our hatred is justifiable so it is okay to be angry and act out. According to Scripture and the principles of righteousness, it is not.

Now an example of destructive hatred from both the "inside out" and the "outside in." Unfortunately this involves rape and incest:

2 Samuel 13:1,5: (NASB) ¹Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David loved her... ⁵Jonadab (his friend) then said to him, Lie down on your bed and pretend to be ill; when your father comes to see you, say to him, Please let my sister Tamar come and give me some food to eat, and let her prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it and eat from her hand.

Amnon was in love with Tamar, his sister. "Love" drove this man to entrap her!

His attraction created a devious thought and action:

2 Samuel 13:8-14: (NASB) ⁸So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house, and he was lying down... ¹¹When she brought (the food she made) to him to eat, he took hold of her and said to her, Come, lie with me, my sister. ¹²But she answered him, No, my brother, do not violate me, for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this disgraceful thing... ¹⁴However, he would not listen to her; since he was stronger than she, he violated her and lay with her.



"Love" drove him to this horrible, hateful and inexcusable action. Our actions can become justifiable in our own minds because of "how we feel."

2 Samuel 13:15: (NASB) Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, get up, go away!

"Love" became a destructive hate form, and it started a chain reaction of sorrow. His sister became the enemy.





The events in Charlottesville were people reacting, not seeing one another as fellow human beings.

To counteract this problem:

Jeremiah 17:9-10: (NASB) ⁹*The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?* ¹⁰*I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds.*

God searches the heart, executing His judgments in a logical, just and merciful way. This is productive hatred. He hates that which is wrong.

We have to learn to rise above our natural emotional reaction to get to a righteous response.



Jihad and the Case for Israel, *Born to Hate Jews*, PragerU

- *While at university I decided that the protests and propaganda against Israel were not enough. True Jihad demanded violence. So, I made plans to join the real fight. I would leave college and join a terrorist training camp in Pakistan. But fortunately for me, fate intervened in a bookstore. I came across a book called The Case for Israel by Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz. The case for Israel? What case could there be? The title itself made me furious, and I began to read the pages almost as an act of defiance. How ill-informed, how stupid could this guy be to defend the indefensible? Well, he was a Jew. That had to be the answer. Still, I read. And what I read challenged all of my dogmas about Israel and the Jews.*



Instagram

"i.rod550" from Instagram comments: "...Can't I hate it?" That's a good question. I believe the answer is no. Don't hate it. Just pray that God can change it. For example, a man robs you in the street. It is wrong to steal and you were just violated. Don't hate that man. Pray for that man, just as Jesus said before he died on the cross. ("Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.") We should forgive others and pray that God can change their wicked ways. The word of God also tells us that God shall return all that the enemy has stolen. So, I say do not hate. Forgive and pray. God shall fight your battles for you and bless you for your love. Never hate. Love always and abundantly. A man may rob you of your money but he cannot rob you of your love. Continue to love. God bless.

This comment teaches us the importance of having a righteous perspective when it comes to hate. Jesus taught us to base our reactions to things in love, but that does not mean there is no room for hate. Hate is appropriate in the right place, at the right time and in the right fashion. If we do not apply it correctly, we will be wrong.

Now we look at destructive hatred from the "outside in." There was a basis to hate here:

2 Samuel 13:23-28: (NASB) ²³*Now it came about after two full years that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baal-hazor...and Absalom invited all the king's sons...* ²⁵*But the king said to Absalom, No, my son, we should not all go...* ²⁶*Then Absalom said, If not, please let my brother Amnon go with us...* ²⁷*But when Absalom urged him, he let Amnon and all the king's sons go...* ²⁸*Absalom commanded his servants, saying, See now, when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say to you, Strike Amnon, then put him to death. Do not fear; have not I myself commanded you? Be courageous and be valiant.*

Absalom was the brother of Amnon who wanted revenge for the rape of his sister. He patiently waited two years to set up the murder of Amnon. This premeditated revenge would only continue the ruining of relationships and lives.

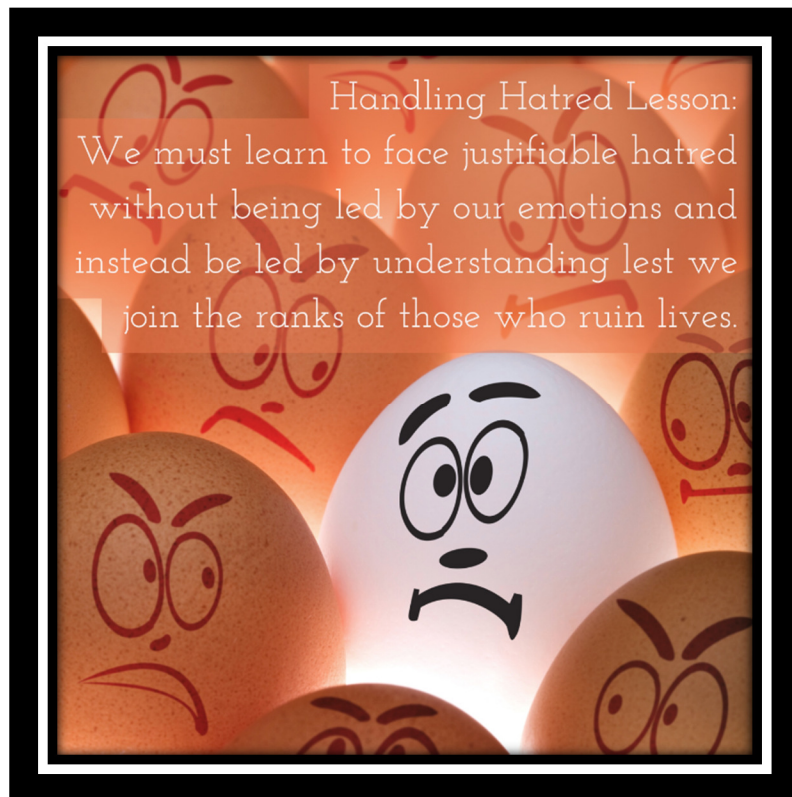


Needed to hear it, LaDainian Tomlinson, Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech and Interviews

- *(Chris) Hi, LaDainian!*
- *(LaDainian) How you doing?*
- *(Chris) Good. Chris Tomlinson.*
- *(LaDainian) Chris Tomlinson?*
- *(Chris) Yeah, it's good to meet you.*
- *(LaDainian) Nice to meet you.*
- *(Chris) As you can tell we have the same name.*
- *(LaDainian) Yes.*
- *(Chris) Our families have been kind of connected since the founding of this hill.*
- *(Woman interviewer) Here's a white man that shares your last name. What was that like for you? How difficult was that?*
- *(LaDainian) It was very difficult, because I realized the reason I had that last name. I had made it to a point in my life I didn't have to hear this. But, I needed to hear it. I needed to hear it for me to grow.*



LaDainian met with a descendant of the slave owner, Tomlinson. Here is a man who could rise above hatred in a powerful way.





Enough already with the destructive hatred! How do we adopt and live by productive hatred?

The first and most important step to adopting and living by productive hatred is the ability to recognize the difference between the two. This recognition does not come easily and needs to be nurtured, tested, developed and then nurtured some more.

Hatred is appropriate in the right way. We cannot fool ourselves into "I feel this way, therefore I am right." We must challenge that feeling and put it up against righteousness, goodness, godliness and mercy. This is how we can tell if "how you feel" is in accordance with God's will.

In Charlottesville, people were throwing around the idea of "America." This side stands for what *they* see as "America," and another side stands for what *they* see as "America." Here is a great quote that helps us understand patriotism vs. nationalism:

Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first. — Charles de Gaulle

There is a big difference between the two! We can be family-oriented, where love for family comes first. That is a good thing! But we should have love for others as well. Hatred gets so misconstrued and "justified," even though it is inherently wrong when it comes from a purely emotional state. We cannot allow ourselves to be emotional with hatred.

Live chat at: [ChristianQuestions.com/listen-live/](https://christianquestions.com/listen-live/)



"Joy" writes: The example of Ammon makes me think that our love must be according to His principles, and then it can be trusted. And the same is true of hatred...it must be guided by His holy principles.



"David" writes: Jesus' "hatred" of the money changers resulted in some pretty destructive behavior towards them. Where do we draw the line as followers whose "kingdom is not of this world"?

Jesus did not hate the moneychangers. He hated what they *did*. He disrupted what the moneychangers did but did not take anything away from them. He simply made it difficult for them to cheat the people. He let the animals run away, but they could be caught. He turned the tables over. Now the moneychangers would have to argue amongst themselves whose money was whose. But he did not let the doves go - they would have flown away and been lost. Legitimately they were the property of the moneychangers and were what the poor people could buy for their sacrifice. Jesus did not act out of hatred for the moneychangers; he acted out of hatred for what they did in a house of prayer. Big difference! They had dishonest weights and were making more money than they should have been. God hates that.

Was Jesus violent? If so, do we have that right? He did not get violent; he got disruptive. He did enough to stop the activity. Just saying, "Everybody, stop!" would not have worked. He turned the tables over and disrupted the activity, which was enough to make it stop. So, no, we do not have a right to get



violent. "Righteous indignation" is something we like to talk about, but usually that is just being emotional.

Let's build the foundation for productive hatred:

Hebrews 1:8-9: (NRSV) ⁸*But of the Son he says, Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.* ⁹*You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.*

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness - prophetically speaking of Jesus having hatred properly applied.

Productive hatred is coupled with appropriate love for righteousness and therefore is an absolute KEY to our footstep following of Jesus!



Finding acts, *Born to Hate Jews, PragerU*

- I read that it wasn't Israel that created the Palestinian refugee crisis; it was the Arab countries, the United Nations, and the corrupt Palestinian leadership. I read that Jews didn't exploit the Holocaust to create the state of Israel; the movement to create a modern Jewish state dated back to the 19th century, and ultimately to the beginnings of the Jewish people almost 4,000 years ago. And I read that Israel is not engaged in genocide against the Palestinians. On the contrary, the Palestinian population has actually doubled in just 20 years. All this did was make me angrier! I needed to prove Dershowitz wrong, to see with my own eyes how racist and oppressive Israel really was. So, I bought a plane ticket. I would travel to Israel, the home of my enemy.*

We suggest five steps towards productive hatred:

1. Acknowledge what you were and the enormous difference between it and what we are called to be.

Ephesians 4:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; ¹⁹and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

Looking in the mirror with honesty and humility helps us to find Jesus every day.

Humility, *LaDainian Tomlinson, Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech and Interviews*

- Once we got to talking and Chris said to me, "I want to apologize to you for what my family did to your family." Even though he had nothing to do with it. He couldn't have changed what happened, but just the fact that he said, "I want to make this better, and I want to talk about this." That's what kind of drew me in to Chris and made me open my arms with love for him.*

Chris simply acknowledged that what happened way back when was horrible. What a powerful antidote for hatred! LaDainian had every right for that resentment to eat him up, but he chose to move beyond it in a powerful way.



2. Abandon what you were - do not merely push it out of the way; desert it with great intention.

Ephesians 4:20-22: (NASB) ²⁰*But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²²that, 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.*

Lay aside the old self - This is not nudging it out of the way just so you can get by. Put it away. It no longer belongs to your life in a relevant manner. Our proper hatred depends on our putting aside our old self. That is hard to do. It can be done through intentional prayer, intentional thinking and intentional action.

We cannot expect to learn how to hate properly by just sitting back and saying, "God will teach me." You have to unlearn, undo and change what drives you.

Intentional prayer, thinking and action are the powerful steps to a new life.

3. Appreciate the power of your new spiritual life - know where it is from, what it is meant to accomplish and how it is meant to work.

Ephesians 4:23-24: (NASB) ²³*and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

That you be renewed in the spirit of your mind - Renewed means different, changed, transformed. True appreciation of true spirituality brings true knowledge and direction. If we claim to be Christians, then we better start acting like it in our emotions. Stop justifying emotion for righteousness.

Ezekiel 33:11: (NKJV) *Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?*

God hates evil, not people. We need to understand and emulate that. Jesus hated evil, not people. He overturned the tables of the moneychangers because they were doing evil. In **Matthew 23**, he told off the scribes and Pharisees because the leadership was leading the people astray. He was honest and straightforward. He did not hate them; he hated what they were doing.

We can put destructive hatred "on notice" in our lives if we handle it with spiritual integrity and determination.



Is there a way to be rid of destructive hatred for good? What do I have to do to put an end to it?

Unless we have fully crystallized our character into the likeness of Jesus, we will always be subject to the insidious tentacles of destructive hatred in our lives. Remember that destructive hatred is natural, as it is based squarely upon our emotions, and our emotions are at work all the time! We, by definition, have to always be aware and willing to fight it. Fighting against yourself is difficult.

I shall allow no man to belittle my soul by making me hate him. — Booker T. Washington



A caller from the Philippines gives us Romans 12:9-10: *Let us have no imitation Christian love. Let us have a genuine break with evil and a real devotion to good. Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers.*



Everything changed, *Born to Hate Jews, PragerU*

- *And that's when everything changed. Everything. What I saw with my own eyes was even more challenging than what Dershowitz had written. Instead of apartheid, I saw Muslims, Christians, and Jews coexisting. Instead of hate, I saw acceptance, even compassion. I saw a raucous, modern, liberal democracy, full of flaws, certainly, but fundamentally decent. I saw a country that wanted nothing more than to live in peace with its neighbors. I saw my hatred melting before my eyes. I knew right then what I had to do. Too many people on this planet are consumed with the same hatred that consumed me. They have been taught to despise the Jewish state - many Muslims by their religion; many others by their college professors or student groups. So here is my challenge to anyone who feels this way: do what I did - seek out the truth for yourself. If the truth could change me, it could change anyone. I am Kasim Hasfeez for Prager University.*

What a great testimony to managing hatred! He allowed truth to show him the way and the humanness in those he once hated.

What a contrast between what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia, and what we see happening in Texas with Hurricane Harvey.

People have driven hundreds of miles with boats to find and rescue stranded people. They are not asking them their political affiliation. "You are a human being in trouble. Take my hand, let me help you." There is no room for hatred there. There is human catastrophe. Charlottesville was all ideological. "I stand for this; you stand for that; therefore, I hate you."



We have the wrong kind of hatred when we lose our humanity. These two experiences are dramatic in their contrast. The fact that we have this incredible outpouring of compassion is proof that we are better than what was seen in Charlottesville.

4. Apply Jesus' character and example in your daily life - be aware of his character and example every day.

Ephesians 4:25: (NASB) *Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.*

We have to maintain the closeness of our connections to be able to rise above destructive hatred.

How do we keep our emotions in check and stay focused on productive hatred? Listen to Jesus:

Matthew 5:43-46: (NKJV) ⁴³You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy...

The Old Testament Law said *love your neighbor*. It never said *and hate your enemy*. They ADDED that and justified the emotion. That is what we do and it creates destructive hatred!

⁴⁴...But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

This is the only way to be a true disciple: love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you - this takes hatred and runs it through the "car wash." Wash the emotion out and what comes out the other end is simply hating that which is wrong but loving the people. That is the way we are supposed to hate. There is no excuse for us to go beyond that. Hate must not emanate from us, because God does not emanate hate - He cares for all.



 **Similar stories, Hall of Fame Acceptance Speech and Interviews**

- For just those simple words of "I'm sorry," but I want to tell this story because it's important for America to understand that all of our stories are very similar and if we understand that, we can truly change the way some of us feel about one another.

5. Acquiesce to a spiritually-balanced approach to life - Anger and hatred happen and CAN be good as long as they are merely tools of righteousness, not tools of your emotion or to hurt others.

Ephesians 4:26: (NASB) ²⁶Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not give the devil an opportunity.

Revelation 2:6: (NASB) *Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*



Who were these Nicolaitans?

(Source: Biblical commentary by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown) The Nicolaitans were a loose sect who sheltered themselves under the name of Christianity. They held hateful doctrines, and they were guilty of hateful deeds, hateful to Christ and to all true Christians; and it is mentioned to the praise of the church of Ephesus that they had a just zeal and abhorrence of those wicked doctrines and practices. An indifference of spirit between truth and error, good and evil, may be called charity and meekness, but it is not pleasing to Christ.

This group took true Christianity and corrupted what it stood for. They made it a cloak for doing whatever they wanted "in the name of Christ." We can see that happening throughout history.

Hate the deeds - act in a righteous, just manner as a result.

Love the sinner - hate the sin! This can be SO easy to confuse:

2 Peter 3:9: (NKJV) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

God is patient (not hateful or vengeful) in the unfolding of His plan because He wants all to repent!

HANDLING HATRED LESSON:

God's "hatred" is for a purpose -
that of identifying wrong and darkness
so that right and light will one day
be fully and unequivocally embraced!
For our hatred to be productive it **MUST**
have the same motivation!

We have to be motivated the way God is motivated - to do the right thing in the right way, as shown to us through Jesus. Only productive hatred applied with compassion and grace is appropriate, and that is not common.

*So, it's wrong! Can't I hate it?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*





Some comments we received on Facebook on this topic:

From T.E.: It's called righteous anger. To be Christlike means just that. God loves sinners so much that He sent Jesus to die for our sins. God loves sinners, but just hates the sins we do. It's what separates people from God.

From B.B.: The answer is pretty simple. Denounce both the ideologies and actions of all involved. One side felt their "rights," and the "rights" of those they perceive themselves to be, justify denying another group their rights through violence. The other hates an entire group of people for immutable characteristics and willingly engaged in violence.

Race hate isn't human nature; race hate is the abandonment of human nature. — Orson Welles

The man of knowledge must be able not only to love his enemies but also to hate his friends. — Friedrich Nietzsche

To truly grasp hate in its proper context, let's look further at what we know of what the Almighty God hates: First, we need to be reminded of a word that often describes evil in the sight of God:

Abomination: Strongs #8441 properly, something disgusting (morally), i.e. (as noun) an abhorrence; especially idolatry or (concretely) an idol

Hate: Strongs #8130 to hate (personally)

Here are some things God hates:

Proverbs 11:20: (KJV) They that are of a froward heart (to turn aside, to be perverse) are **abomination <8441>** to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Proverbs 3:32: (KJV) For the froward is **abomination <8441>** to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

Proverbs 11:1: (KJV) A false balance is **abomination <8441>** to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 15:8: (KJV) The sacrifice of the wicked is an **abomination <8441>** to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Proverbs 15:9: (KJV) The way of the wicked is an **abomination <8441>** unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Proverbs 17:15: (KJV) He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are **abomination <8441>** to the LORD.

Here is a concise list of things God hates:

Proverbs 6:16-19: (ASV) ¹⁶There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an **abomination <8441>** unto him: ¹⁷Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood; ¹⁸A heart that deviseth wicked purposes, feet that are swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹A false witness that uttereth lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

We are continually saying to "hate the sin and not the sinner," yet here it seems to show that God Himself hates the sinner. How do we harmonize this?



Based on these texts, God OBVIOUSLY does NOT HATE sinners:

Luke 2:14: (NKJV) *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*

Ezekiel 33:11: (NKJV) *Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?*

Amos 5:14-15: (ASV) ¹⁴*Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so, Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be with you, as ye say. ¹⁵Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish justice in the gate: it may be that Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19: (NKJV) ¹⁸*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

2 Peter 3:9: (NKJV) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Proverbs 6:16-19: **Seven things God hates:**

1. a proud look - (haughty eyes)
2. a lying tongue
3. hands that shed innocent blood
4. a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations
5. feet that be swift in running to mischief
6. a false witness that speaketh lies
7. he that soweth discord among brethren

It becomes clear that what God hates is the evil that each and every one of us is capable of. God hates the spiteful, angry, jealous, egotistical, vengeful, prideful, deceitful, hurtful and idolatrous things we do.