
Overcoming Hatred To Love (Without A Cause)

The Power of God's Love

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Sermon: The Power of God's Love: Overcoming Hatred To Love (Without A Cause)

Lesson Text

Matthew 24:10–13 (KJV) ¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³ But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

John 15:23–25 (KJV) ²³ He that hateth me hateth my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But *this cometh to pass*, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.

Ephesians 4:31–32 (KJV) ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, (along) with all malice: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Introduction

Today, we will give the third of three messages that are in response to conditions that are described in our first lesson text, Matthew 24:10-13.

Simply put, because iniquity would cause our love of each other to wax cold or become nonexistent, we would become a world that offends, betrays, and hates one another.

And because this has crept into the church, we are not keeping Jesus' commandment: John 13: ³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵ By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Our theme for 2026 is "The Power of God's Love". And without it, we become offensive, betrayers, and haters. We've already looked at offenses, and betrayal; let's now look at hatred!

Why do we hate one another? We have hatred between races and cultures, hatred between countries, hatred between political or religious affiliations, hatred between groups and clicks, gangs, and even hatred between friends and families both natural and within the church.

James 4: ¹ From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members?

Hatred is a very interesting thing, primarily because for the most part, it has no justifiable origin, no reasonable explanation. Jesus said in our lesson text, they hated me without a cause.

Psalms 69: ⁴ They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.

Hatred becomes a visceral primeval response to another person that cannot be justified.

The 31st verse of the 4th chapter of Ephesians shows us how hatred manifests itself – bitterness (smoldering resentment), wrath (violent rage), anger (hostility and animosity), clamor (angry bickering), evil speaking (slander and abusive language), and malice (wishing evil and spite).

Anger and bitterness are emotions of hatred; how people feel about you. Clamor and evil speaking are thoughts of hatred put into words; how people think about you. And wrath and malice are the behaviors of hatred put into action; what people do to you.

Now it is in the next verse of our Ephesians' lesson text that we are shown how to respond to this hatred – kindness (unselfish concern), tenderheartedness (sympathetic compassion), and forgiveness (a readiness to pardon offenses).

So how are we able to respond to hatred with such responses? With the Power of God's Love! Just as the hatred comes without a cause, so must our love come. Our kindness should not be a response to niceness, our tenderheartedness should not be a response to the compassion of others, and our forgiveness must not be based on if they deserve or earned it.

These responses must come without a cause!

Series and Sermon: The Power of God's Love: Overcoming Hatred To Love (Without A Cause)

(The Response of Tenderheartedness, Forgiveness, and Kindness)

I. Love That Responds with Tenderheartedness (Gentleness)

Ephesians 4: ³² And be ye kind one to another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When hatred manifests itself through anger and bitterness, God's Love Empowers us to respond with Tenderheartedness.

Ephesians 4: ³¹ Let all **bitterness**, and wrath, and **anger**, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Anger is an emotion of hostility, animosity, and overall grouchiness. **Bitterness** is harsh feelings, smoldering resentment, and an unwillingness to forgive.

We can't fix or change how another person feels, nor should we exhaust our energy trying to understand it, we must simply just respond to it. And God's love gives us tenderheartedness – an element of the fruit of the spirit called gentleness.

Love empowers us to respond with ***Tenderheartedness***—A sympathetic, affectionate, and compassionate interest in others, and a willingness to bear their burden.

Being tenderhearted allows us to respond to the cruelty of anger and bitterness with gentleness.

Proverbs 15: ¹ A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Colossians 4: ⁶ Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Jeremiah 31: ³ The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

II. Love That Responds with Forgiveness (Longsuffering)

Ephesians 4: ³² And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When hatred manifests itself through clamor and evil speaking, God's Love Empowers us to respond with Forgiveness.

Ephesians 4: ³¹ Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and **clamour**, and **evil speaking**, be put away from you, with all malice:

Clamor is loud outcries of anger, bawling, and angry bickering. **Evil speaking** is insulting language, slander, and abusive speech.

We are particularly challenged when we hear negative things about us. It not only raises our emotional anger level, but it also causes others to think and feel some kind of way about us.

It can ruin our name and impact our ability to earn a living. We even can sue for slander or defamation, which is a false spoken statement that damages one's reputation.

Even God hates it: Proverbs 6: ¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: ¹⁷ A proud look, **a lying tongue**, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ **An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations**, feet that be swift in running to mischief, ¹⁹ **A false witness that speaketh lies**, and **he that soweth discord among brethren**.

Of the seven abominations and things that God hates, four of them are either what comes out of your mouth or what's in our heart that will eventually come out of your mouth.

Love empowers us to respond with **Forgiveness**—A readiness to pardon offenses, to overlook personal wrongs against oneself, and to harbor no desire for retaliation.

Luke 23: ³⁴ Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...**

Matthew 18: ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

III. Love That Responds with Kindness (Goodness)

Ephesians 4: ³² And **be ye kind one to another**, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

When hatred manifests itself through wrath and malice, God's Love Empowers us to respond with Kindness

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Ephesians 4: ³¹ Let all bitterness, and **wrath**, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all **malice**:

Wrath— is bursts of rage, violent passion, temper tantrums. **Malice**— is wishing evil on others, spite, meanness.

Eventually anger and evil speaking will metastasize into the behavior of wrath and malice. It's no longer just about how they feel about you or what that said about you, but now they are doing it to you. And our nature is to respond in kind.

Romans 12: ¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Payback feels powerful, but it's a trap that will allow evil to overcome us.

Romans 12: ²¹ Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

Love empowers us to respond with **Kindness**—an unselfish concern for the welfare of others, and a desire to be helpful even at great personal sacrifice.

Matthew 5: ⁴⁴ But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Romans 12: ⁹ Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Overcoming Hatred To Love (Without A Cause))

Lesson Text

- Matthew 24:10–13, John 15:23–25, Ephesians 4:31–32

Sermon Outline

- I. *Love That Responds with Tenderheartedness (Gentleness)***
- II. *Love That Responds with Forgiveness (Longsuffering)***
- III. *Love That Responds with Kindness (Goodness)***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What’s something you believe now that you didn’t believe five years ago?
2. What’s one thing you’re learning to let go of in 2026?

II. Into The Bible

1. According to 1 John 2:9-11, why is one who hates their brother or sister in Christ in danger? What is the danger?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:21-24. a) Describe how Jesus overcame the hatred of his oppressors with love. b) How will the fruit of the Spirit, long suffering, help us to respond in a Christlike manner when dealing with those who hate us?

III. Life Application

1. If you feel wronged at home, work, school or in your family, what is the most Christ-like way to respond instead of lashing out or planning a payback?
2. What are techniques you can use in responding with the wisdom of “a soft answer turns away wrath” when you are in a heated argument?