

What is Enmity?

Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Bible Matters Sources

Introduction:

- A. What emotional force in this world can cause seemingly unlimited evil and pain, exists in every part of the world, and has been experienced by nearly every human being alive?
 - 1. Enmity
 - 2. What moves people to treat others terribly?
 - 3. Why do some kill others just because of the way they look or what they believe in or how they dress or talk or live?
- B. Hatred is opposed to sensible, rational thinking, leads to destruction, violence, and suffering
 - 1. Hatred or enmity is everything that God is not
 - a. God is love - 1John 4:8
 - 2. Hatred opposes love
 - 3. Hatred led to the crucifixion of Christ - John 15:24-25
- C. If God is against enmity, then His children will oppose it, too.
 - 4. It is the quintessential work of the flesh - Gal. 5:19-20

I. ENMITY

- A. Enmity: a word seldom used today. "The quality of being an enemy; the opposite of friendship; ill will; hatred; unfriendly dispositions; malevolence. It expresses more than aversion and less than malice, and differs from displeasure in denoting a fixed or rooted hatred, whereas displeasure is more transient" (Webster's)

II. ENMITY IN SCRIPTURE

- A. That which was established between man and the serpent - Gen. 3:15
- B. The position of the world toward God - James 4:4
 - 1. The world hates Jesus - John 7:7, 15:18
 - 2. Darkness hates exposure by the light of truth - John 3:20
- C. God's view of sin
 - 1. God hates the works of the Nicolaitans - Rev. 2:6
 - 2. God hates wickedness - Heb. 1:9
- D. Our past was once in enmity with God - Rom. 8:7
 - 1. When in the flesh, we were hostile toward God
 - 2. Before salvation, hated by others, hating in return - Titus 3:3
 - 3. Hostility between Gentiles and people of God was removed in Christ
 - a. Eph. 2:15-17
- E. The world hates us also, if we are in Him - John 15:19
 - 1. Disciple to be as his master - Matthew 10:21-25
- F. Some forces cannot reconcile; they must remain at enmity
 - 1. Believers and the Adversary - Eph. 6:10-18
 - 2. Believers and things of this world - 1John 2:15-17
 - 3. God and Christ are against sin and death, and we're part of the struggle

III. CHRISTIANS AND ENMITY

- A. We have a dilemma
 - 1. Enmity is a work of the flesh - Gal. 5:19-21
 - 2. But it seems that we are called on to hate some things
- B. We need to learn what we are to hate and what not to hate
- C. We are to hate sin, death, and the suffering caused by them.
 - 1. Matt. 6:24 - By choosing to serve God, we set ourselves in opposition to the world
 - 2. Rev. 2:6 - The Ephesians hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and that both approved by the Lord and to their benefit
 - 3. Jude 1:23 - It is appropriate to hate the flesh in the sense that it is the part of our dual nature that presses us to sin
 - 4. Rom. 12:9 - We must abhor what is evil
- D. We hate sin and death, not because it should be part of our nature to hate, but because we are to hate what God hates
 - 1. Eph. 6:12 - Our conflict is with the spiritual powers of darkness
- E. We are not to hate any person; this is the enmity condemned in Gal. 5:19-21
 - 1. Matt. 5:43-44; Luke 6:27 - We are not to hate our enemies, but rather love them and pray for them
 - 2. 1John 2:9, 11 - To hate a brother is to still be in darkness
 - 3. 1John 3:15 - One who hates his brother is called a murderer
 - 4. 1John 4:20 - We cannot love God whom we have not seen while hating our brother whom we do see
- F. We must remember that being hateful was part of the old man of sin, done away with in baptism - Titus 3:3-8
- G. The hate we must have for sin and evil must not come from the fleshly hatred that satisfies a worldly purpose, but must come from our love for God, justice, mercy, and truth, from devotion to Him and His purposes, and therefore comes from being against anything opposed to Him
- H. We are never right if we inflict harm, do any kind of evil, or even consider or wish harm on anyone, even if we try to justify it by hating sin
 - 1. Jude 9

IV. JESUS AND ENMITY

- A. How do we overcome our own feelings of hatred and not be hardened by hate directed toward us?
- B. We can only do so in Christ Jesus
 - 1. He was hated, even to the point of being killed - John 15:24-25, 7:7
- C. He did not hate in return - Luke 23:34; John 3:16
- D. It was through this love that He was able to overcome the world
 - 1. John 16:33; 1John 5:4
 - 2. 1John 4:4 - This is only possible because God is greater than the world
- E. With God, we are on the stronger side
 - 1. The world may hate, but God loves, and the love of God will conquer the hate of the world

2. If we are going to have a share in Jesus Christ, we also must love and not hate - Gal. 5:19-24

G. God is love, not hate - 1John 4:8

1. The only time hate is associated with God is when it interferes with His love and work
2. How could we ever expect to be justified while bearing hatred?
3. While we may hate that which is opposed to God, we are called on to be as Christ and have a loving spirit, loving all men no matter what they say and do, and always standing for what is just and noble and good
4. Worldly hate can in no way work the righteousness of God