

What is Enmity?

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- 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?
- Enmity or hatred is opposed to sensible, rational thinking, leads to destruction, violence, and suffering; it is everything that God is not

# What is Enmity?

- God is love; enmity opposes love
  - 1John 4:8 - “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
- Enmity led to the crucifixion of Christ
  - John 15:24-25 - “If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, They hated Me without a cause.”

# What is Enmity?

- If God is against enmity, then His children will oppose it, too. It is the quintessential work of the flesh.
  - Gal. 5:19-21
- 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)

# Enmity In Scripture

- That which was established between man and the serpent
  - Gen. 3:15 - “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”
- The position of the world toward God
  - James 4:4 - “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

# Enmity In Scripture

- The world hates Jesus
  - John 7:7 - “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.”
  - John 15:18 - “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”
- Darkness hates exposure by the light of truth
  - John 3:20 - “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”

# Enmity In Scripture

- God hates the works of the Nicolaitans
  - Rev. 2:6 - “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”
- God hates wickedness
  - Heb. 1:9 - “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness...”

# Enmity In Scripture

- Our past was once in enmity with God
  - Rom. 8:7 - “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”
  - Titus 3:3 - “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”
- Hostility between Gentiles and people of God was removed in Christ
  - Eph. 2:15-17

# Enmity In Scripture

- The world hates us also, if we are in Him
  - John 15:19 - “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”
- A disciple cannot expect better treatment than his teacher
  - Matt. 10:21 - “It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!”

# Enmity In Scripture

- Some forces can never reconcile; they must remain at enmity
  - Believers and the Adversary - Eph. 6:10-18
  - Believers and things of this world - 1John 2:15-17
  - God and Christ are against sin and death, and we're part of that struggle

# Christians And Enmity

- We have a dilemma
  - Enmity is a work of the flesh - Gal. 5:19-21
  - But it seems that we are called on to hate some things
  - We need to learn what we are to hate and what not to hate

# Christians And Enmity

- We are to hate sin, death, and the suffering caused by them.
  - By choosing to serve God, we set ourselves in opposition to the world - Matt. 6:24
  - The Ephesians hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, and that was both approved by the Lord and to their benefit - Rev. 2:6
  - It is appropriate to hate the flesh in the sense that it is the part of our dual nature that presses us to sin - Jude 1:23
  - We must abhor what is evil - Rom. 12:9

# Christians And Enmity

- 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
  - Our conflict is with the spiritual powers of darkness - Eph. 6:12

# Christians And Enmity

- We are not to hate any person; this is the enmity condemned in Gal. 5:19-21
  - We are not to hate our enemies, but rather love them and pray for them - Matt. 5:43-44; Luke 6:27
  - To hate a brother is to be in darkness - 1John 2:9, 11
  - One who hates his brother is called a murderer - 1John 3:15
  - We cannot love God whom we have not seen while hating our brother whom we do see - 1John 4:20

# Christians And Enmity

- We must remember that being hateful was part of the old man of sin, done away with in baptism  
- Titus 3:3-8
- 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

# Christians And Enmity

- 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
  - Jude 9 - “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke you!”

# Jesus And Enmity

- How do we overcome our own feelings of hatred and not be hardened by hate directed toward us?
  - Only in Christ Jesus
  - He was hated, even to the point of being killed over it - John 15:24-25, 7:7
  - He did not hate in return
    - Luke 23:34 - “Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

# Jesus And Enmity

- It was through this love that He was able to overcome the world
  - John 16:33 - “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
  - 1John 5:4 - “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.”
- This is only possible because God is greater than the world
  - 1John 4:4 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

# Jesus And Enmity

- With God, we are on the stronger side
  - The world may hate, but God loves, and the love of God will conquer the hate of the world
  - If we are going to have a share in Jesus Christ, we also must love and not hate - Gal. 5:19-24
  - God is love, not hate - 1John 4:8

# Jesus And Enmity

- The only time hate is associated with God is when it interferes with His love and work
- We cannot ever expect to be justified while bearing enmity
- 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
- Worldly hate can in no way work the righteousness of God