

LOVE THE SINNER; HATE THE SIN

In our love for man let's not forget our love for God

Glen C. Robertson

ONE IS NOT hating the sinner by hating the sinner's sin!

17 Let there be no hate in your heart for your brother; but you may make a protest to your neighbour, so that he may be stopped from doing evil.

Leviticus 19:17 The BIBLE

It is NOT wrong to hate sin!

3 I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.

Psalms 101:3 The BIBLE

One is loving God by loving righteousness and hating sin!

113 I hate vain thoughts: but Thy law do I love.

Psalms 119:113 The BIBLE

One is loving the sinner by telling him of his sin!

11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Ezekiel 33:11 The BIBLE

Zechariah 8:16-17 says it all:

16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.

Zechariah 8:16-17 The BIBLE

Zechariah 8:16-17 says three very important things:

- 1) The Christian is to speak what is right and true to those around him;
- 2) The Christian is not to hate those around him, including those he has called upon to repent of their sin;

3) The Christian is to hate falsehood and sin.

In other words, we see that the Christian is to: "Hate the sin, but love the sinner," and (very important) to declare to the sinner what is right and true, so that he realizes his sin, and is encouraged to repent. This way he can be shown how to turn from his sin and be saved from a life of sin and guilt, and from an eternity in hell.

In recent years when a Christian has condemned sin, the antiChristian has begun condemning him as a, "hater," claiming that his hate for the sin is actually a hate for the sinner. In doing this, the antiChristian suggests that the Christian is bad because he is condemning the sin. And he implies or even actually claims outright that the sin itself is good!

20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
Isaiah 5:20 The BIBLE

Therefore, showing complete, utter hate for sin in no way shows hate for the sinner. But what it does do, is show complete, utter love for God! One does not love God if he loves sin more than he loves God!

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
II Timothy 3:3-4 The BIBLE

And one cannot have hate for others if he has love for God, for God is love.

5 But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him.
6 He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.
10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.
11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.
1 John 2:5-11 The BIBLE

Love for God is the priority, the most important thing; everything else must be secondary to that. One does not love man first, then God; one loves God first, as ALL love stems from the God of love! Love for God will automatically and naturally flow down into love for one's fellow man.

Jesus said,

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other

commandment greater than these.
Mark 12:29-31 The BIBLE

It is therefore for the love of God and of the unsaved that we preach to the unsaved of his sin. It's not because we enjoy the persecution we get when we preach to them.

157 Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from Thy testimonies.
158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not Thy Word.
159 Consider how I love Thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord, according to Thy lovingkindness.
160 Thy Word Is true from the beginning: and every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.
161 Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of Thy Word.
Psalms 119:157-161 The BIBLE

The Christian preaches of sin to the unsaved because of the Christian's love and compassion for him.

17 Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.
Jeremiah 14:17 The BIBLE

136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not Thy law.
Psalms 119:136 The BIBLE

And, because of our love for the unsaved, we continue preaching, despite their persecution and hate for us. And we always will.

16 Give glory to the Lord your God, before He cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.
17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the Lord's flock is carried away captive.
Jeremiah 13:16-17 The BIBLE

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!
Matthew 23:37 The BIBLE