



Part 13: Haters into Lovers

1 John 3:11-15

1. Tell of your experience with receiving and expressing hatred while growing up.

a. Fill in the blanks. Spiritual Principle – The _____ turns _____ hearts into _____ hearts.

2. Read 1 John 3:11 along with John 13:34-35 and 1 Peter 1:22. What is a central teaching of the gospel?

a. How can we Christians lose track of this essential teaching?

b. Why must we continually emphasize it?

c. How does the gospel equip us to truly love – especially believers?

d. What does it look like to truly love other Christians?

3. Read 1 John 3:12-14. What do we all learn about Cain here? Consider Genesis 4:1-11 as well.

a. What is a murderer ultimately trying to *accomplish* through killing another?

b. What is the connection with Cain and people of the world here? Why should we ponder this?

c. What distinguishes *genuine* Christians from nonbelievers (including professing Christians who are not actually saved)?

d. What is the significance about calling other Christian's "brothers" (or "sisters")?

e. Name 3 ways you need to grow in loving other Christians better.

f. Why is it vital to focus mainly on how *I can love* Christians better over how other Christians *can love me* better?

4. Read 1 John 3:15. Explain the *range* of meaning of the Greek word behind "hate".

a. What is true of those who continually live in hatred – especially toward Christians?

b. Explain why hating someone is compared to being a murderer?

c. How will you address hatred when it arises in your heart toward other Christians?

5. Read Isaiah 53:3-5. How does the gospel address and transform our tendency to hate others? How does it awaken deep and abiding love for our brothers and sisters in Christ?
