

“Does God Hate Me?”

Part 2: God Practices What He Preaches

(preached 6/30/24)

Please turn to *Matthew 5:43*.

LAST WEEK:

- Are you struggling with the thought that God hates you?
- Is angry with you, ready to punish, and will eventually send you to Hell?
- Do you believe He DESIRES to do that?
- HATE is defined as cutting off someone else from God therefore...
- Hate from God Himself is Him deciding someone cannot be Saved, forgiven, or restored. He would cut off His own patience, grace, and mercy and condemn the object of His hate.
- Hate from a Christian is deciding the same thing, therefore cutting off access to the Holy Spirit within to said person (WH patience, grace, and mercy.)
- I'm sorry if you feel Christians hate you...but this series is asking: *“has God Himself cut me off? Is He willing to Save me or has He already condemned me? Has He given up on me?”*

Think back on when you lived with your parents: did you ever catch them in **HYPOCRISY**? Did it happen more than once?

- They told you lying was bad and punished you for doing it, then you caught them lying.
- They preached that you should honor and respect them, but you watched them being disrespectful toward their own parents when they were alive.

Imagine a pastor who was the same way. He preaches a sermon series about how stealing is a sin and that we should have faith that God will provide. Then he's made to step down because he's stealing money from the offering plate!

Let me ask: **isn't a hypocrite hard to follow, listen to, and obey?**

The answer is yes and maybe this is why: because part of us says **“THEY DON'T BELIEVE WHATEVER THEY'RE PREACHING.”**

- **The parent who says lying is bad** lies because they believe it will bring a good outcome...therefore they don't really think all lying is bad and even think it's sometimes good.
- **The parent who preaches “honor thy father and mother”** disrespects his own because he thinks they deserve it...so they don't really believe parents should be honored.

- The pastor who preaches against stealing, saying we just need faith lacks said faith because he's embezzling from the church treasury.

God isn't a hypocrite.

He believes and lives everything He says all the time.

What does that have to do with trying to decide if God hates us or not?

[Mat 5:43-48 KJV] 43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy." 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; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? 47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more [than others]? do not even the publicans so? 48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Jesus is preaching to His Father's kids: back then Israel, and now everyone. What's our divine Parent and Pastor telling us?

Love your enemies.

The Gospel record clearly shows Jesus wasn't a hypocrite.

- He gave everyone, including the scribes and Pharisees, the opportunity to repent and be Saved. He showed everyone Who He was.
- He preached the Gospel and worked miracles in public for all the see and be on the receiving end of.

Our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit *love everyone...including their enemies*. They can call on us, the Church, to do the same without being even the slightest bit hypocritical. They believe and live this.

Please remember: the love I'm referring to looks like this: **GOD MAKES HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE ALL THE TIME**. Whether a person is trying to obey Him or blatantly rebelling against Him. God's love does NOT mean approval or affirmation of anything He calls sin.

[Jhn 6:37 ESV] “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and ***whoever comes to me I will never cast out.***”

If God hated you, **He would have had Jesus call down fiery judgment the first time** He was here and just incinerate people like Elijah did.

If God hated you, **He would commanded His followers to convert you by force and, if you refused, to kill you.**

After hearing that last one you might point out that, in the history of the church, **THERE WERE TIMES WHEN CHRISTIANS DID EXACTLY THAT.** It's true and I'm sorry. The difference between Jesus and Mohammed is that I just read to you what Jesus commanded. Mohammed was the once who said try conversion first and when that doesn't work, put them to the sword.

Real Christians submit to and believe in what Jesus said, and live it. As a matter of fact, let's read the rest of what Jesus said as pertains to how Father feels and how we're supposed to imitate Him.

for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

The sun and rain both bring life and God our Father has blessed all of mankind with both. He doesn't give more sun or rain to the people who love and know Him.

As far as how we're supposed to respond to those who hate us, here's our list from Jesus Himself: **pray for them, bless them, and do good deeds to them.**

For those of you who struggle with the question of “does God hate me?” I say this: ***He never commands His followers to do something He doesn't do, because He's not a hypocrite.***

When He tells His followers to do something, He's already doing it and has always done so.

Jesus was and is God, yet as **the Roman soldiers are driving nails through His hands and** feet He prays for them and asks Father to forgive them.

- People constantly hurled insults and made accusations toward Christ.
- They attacked Him and tried to kill Him several times.
- I'll also wager there were many who were healed by Him that had little or nothing to do with Him after.
- Maybe even turned against Him later.

Jesus was God meaning **HE KNEW ALL THAT WOULD HAPPEN**. We get angry with each other because we do good expecting to receive good in return. When we don't we're hurt.

Even though Jesus knew He wasn't going to get good in return, but actually lots of bad, *He continued to share to all the chance to hear and receive His saving grace.*

He healed EVERYONE who came to Him, even if they only came to "get something" or turned on Him later.

God doesn't hate you.

- He's willing to make Himself available to you, save you, forgive you, heal you, and restore you!
- His greatest expression of love was in the form of His Son Jesus and to send Him here to earth.

If that sounds like a cliché to you, **THINK OF WHAT HE COULD HAVE SENT**. At one point He sent a worldwide flood to wipe everyone and everything out and start over with just Noah and his family.

God is all powerful, He created the heavens and the earth. All the galaxies we see through the James Webb and Hubble telescopes were formed by the Lord. **He could send a worldwide fire or plague, turning everyone into zombies.**

Climate change folk are the ones who warn that someday the earth will "reset" itself, killing humanity off, and healing itself...yet God is the bad Guy Who hates you??

Truth is God has pulled out all the stops to save people not kill them.

- He wants to save the people who love Him and the ones who hate Him.
- He's patient with those who believe He exists and those who don't.
- He desires to forgive law abiding citizens and criminals alike.
- **He hasn't given up on you.**

There are words in the Bible that point to God's character and two I'll point out today are **longsuffering and enduring.**

“Longsuffering” is an old term for what we now call “patience”

and I prefer the old term. Consider it: long-suffering. Waiting for McDonalds to get our drive-thru order done more quickly while we tap our fingers is not long-suffering (patience) because we're not suffering.

Long-suffering means that we're truly suffering, whether physically or emotionally, waiting for something to happen...and said suffering goes on a long time.

Maybe God has promised healing, deliverance, restoration, or a blessing of some kind and we're still faithfully waiting for it. All the while still suffering whatever we're suffering.

GOD IS LONG-SUFFERING THROUGH PEOPLE NOT BELIEVING IN HIM, using Him, ignoring Him, blaspheming Him, accusing Him, rejecting Him, forming Him into their own image they like better, misquoting Him, etc. He endures us killing each other, stealing, lying, lusting, coveting, and following our own desires. He waits while we try our own way, form our own religions, and go astray.

It's been 2000 years since Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and promised to return. 2000 years. Since that time the Gospel has gone to every country on earth and the Bible is the most widely read and available book on the planet.

WHAT IS HE WAITING FOR? WHY DOESN'T HE JUST COME NOW?

Here's why:

[2Pe 3:8-9 NKJV] 8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day [is] as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but ***is LONGSUFFERING toward us***, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

He's giving us all more time to repent and be Saved. Whether you a law-abiding citizen or a terrorist. He's continuing to endure all the depravity on earth so that as many as possible would come to the saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ.

Before I got Saved, I openly came AGAINST the Gospel, the Church, and the Bible. I was an ENEMY of Christ and the Gospel just as there was back in the first century (*Romans 11:28*). All I can say is "thank God" He didn't come back yet! Thank God Jesus didn't return before 1997! I would have been in big big trouble!!!

[Rom 5:10 NKJV] 10 For if when **we were enemies** [of God] we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Some like Paul were open enemies of the Gospel and therefore God before they were Saved. People who directly opposed the teaching and spreading of the Gospel. Tried to stop it, came against it, preached another way of Salvation. *Shouldn't they, of all people, be condemned to Hell?*

Yet they aren't if they repent and receive Christ as their Savior. They will be cleansed by the blood of Christ, forgiven, and made sons of God!

Maybe you think you're God's enemy because you've said bad things about the Lord, His Church, and His Bible. Maybe you think God hates you because the choices you've made and the lifestyle you're living.

- He doesn't like anything He calls sin. He doesn't want us committing sins.
- *Yet He continues to make Himself available to us.*
- He waits for us to see that He's standing there with His arms open.

You and I are the "ANY" in 2 Peter 3:9!