

Biblical Families, Part 8 | the Consequences of Love

I. The Consequences of Family Hate

- The Greek word translated “hates” in this passage refers to strong feelings of aversion. But it’s also important for us to remember that biblical hatred doesn’t always refer to strong feelings. A person can hate another person without actually feeling negative emotions toward them.
- If love is wanting and working toward God’s best interest for someone, and hate is doing the opposite of that, then a “friend” who encourages you to gossip or take something that doesn’t belong to you or make fun of the new kid or watch something you shouldn’t is not a friend.
- **Hate is unrighteous.**
 - If you have animosity toward your siblings or spouse or parents, if you can’t stand to be around them, if you feel hatred toward them, that’s wicked.
 - It’s also very important that we recognize that you might like your sibling a lot, but when you encourage them to do things that are sinful . . . you’re actually hating them, and that’s evil.
 - This applies equally to the good things we do for the wrong reasons. If I’m worshipping myself with my good deeds, that’s unloving on two levels. First of all, I’m not loving God as I should, but secondly I’m not loving my neighbor because the illustration of my life is that it’s okay to do good things for selfish reasons.
- **Hate is murder.** (Matthew 5:21-22; John 8:44)
 - Hatred is the root of murder, and—in God’s eyes—is, therefore, just as evil as murder.
 - Those of you who have people in your life whom you hate, Jesus says that your hatred toward them is just as wicked as murder.
 - But we must remember that you might love hanging out with the people with whom you sin. Jesus says that’s as bad as murdering them because you’re slowly killing them spiritually.
 - And the same is true when you encourage people to do good things, but you encourage them to do those good things for selfish reasons. That too is unloving.
- **Hate is superficial.** (James 2:15-16)
 - John says that when you see someone in need and you don’t help, you’re being hateful. Jesus gladly laid down His life for His enemies, but we won’t even help someone we don’t like because they dress differently than we do.
 - When you see someone in need and all you offer them is mouth service and kind words—even though you might be trying to be nice—you’re actually being hateful. It’s useless. In fact, it’s harmful because you’re sinning against them . . . and that’s hateful.
- **Hate is condemning.**
 - Our hatred condemns us because it’s the revelation that we are not loving others as God loves us. It’s the proof in the pudding. I can say “I love God and am living in the light,” but my emotional hatred and my spiritual hatred is a testament to my sin.
- **Hate is death.** (John 13:35)
 - If our lives are habitually identified by hatefulness, we are not in the light. We cannot possess the eternal life Jesus offers us and perpetually live that way.
 - If we constantly encourage others in their sin with no conviction by the Holy Spirit, we do not have spiritual life.
 - If we’re always leading others to do the right things in the right ways but for the wrong reasons . . . we abide in death.
 - By this will all know that you are not My disciples, if you hate one another.

II. The Consequences of Family Love

- **Love is righteous.**
 - Love is holy. It's pure and sinless and beautiful. Real biblical love is the most pleasant and enjoyable experience a person can have. Each interaction would be peaceful and kind and gracious and patient and humble and helpful and merciful and faithful. (I Corinthians 13)
 - Living in the light demands that we be loving. Any moment of impatience and unkindness and pride and sinful anger is unrighteous . . . and, therefore, not in the light of God.
- **Love is sacrificial.** (John 15:13)
 - Love is willing to lay down its life. This is the exact opposite of murder.
 - If you look around the room and think that you would never sacrifice your life for any of your family members, then you don't truly love them as God loves you.
 - If you look around your room and think, "I would die to protect any of my family members," that's beautiful. I hope you love them that much. But I need to follow this up with the next observation.
- **Love is deep.** (II Corinthians 12:15)
 - Love is not just words without actions. Love is willing to spend and be spent. Love is willing to give everything if it will glorify God. Love is willing to love more even if you are loved less.
 - A lot of men say they would take a bullet for their wives, but they rarely take a dirty diaper or sink of dishes for their wives. If you say you'd be willing to sacrifice your greatest possession—your life—you should be willing to sacrifice everything else.
 - Ephesians 4 tells us that we need to speak truth in love. Our interactions shouldn't only ever be on the level of weather and fun and "how was school." We should also be comfortable talking about the real things that will matter for eternity.
- **Love is confident.**
 - We have confidence in God. Even though the situations around us may not be comfortable, we know that God is in control and that's He's using these circumstances to make us more like Him if we submit to His plan and power.
 - We have confidence to ask the Lord for the truth and conviction and power and blessing that He promises. We know that we can't submit to Him and His plan in our own strength, so we are confident to ask Him for His power.
 - We have confidence in our loving relationships. We won't doubt each other or fear each other. We see our family as allies and friends instead of enemies.
 - There's a lot of angst and anxiety and anger in most families. Hateful families are filled with insecurities and suspicion, but a consequence of living in a biblically loving family is great confidence.
- **Love is life.**
 - True, biblical love is the most powerful testament to the fact that a person has been born again.
 - The trouble is not that we don't *want* the consequences of love. The trouble is that we don't want to *be* loving.

LifeWork

1. **Read I John 4:1-6 at least two times.**
2. **Identify hateful behavior in your life, confess it, ask for forgiveness, and commit to changing.**
3. **Ask God to help you see your hatred as He sees it.**
4. **Assemble with God's people this week.**