

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Hatred

"Hate is a prolonged manner of suicide." – Anonymous

"Hatred can be an acid that does more damage to the vessel in which it is stored than to the object on which it is poured." – Anonymous

"Our hatred of someone does not affect their peace of mind, but it certainly can ruin ours." – W.A. "Dub" Nance

"The hatred we bear our enemies injures their happiness less than our own." – J. Petit-Senn

"Hating people is like burning down your own house to get rid of a rat." – Harry Emerson Fosdick

Webster defines *hatred* as, "intense dislike or ill will." It is interesting that the definition hits on problematic aspects of this harsh emotion. Notice, "*intense* dislike." This is dealing with an extreme emotion. And then there is "*ill* will." Here we are dealing with bitterness. As we sum it up, we are dealing with an extreme emotional state of bitterness. As the quotes have expressed, there can be nothing good that comes out of this state of mind.

The hatred of Jacob's sons toward their brother Joseph, along with envy, moved them to conspire to sell their brother into slavery (Gen. 37). David's son Amnon defiled his sister Tamar, and ended up hating her "exceedingly" (2 Sam. 13:15). This work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20) needs to be put far from us. Nothing good can come from it!

"Hatred stirs up strife..." (Prov. 10:12). "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred" (Prov. 15:17). "Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly" (Prov. 26:26). Strife, wickedness, no matter how it is concealed, once again, the fruit is nothing good!

You will notice that one of the aspects that is found with hatred is the tendency to try to conceal it. How can the love of Christ flow from us if we harbor ill will towards someone? How can brethren allow such evil to grow in their hearts?

The cure for this malady is love. If we fill our hearts with love, then hatred will not find a place in which to dwell. "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins" (Prov. 10:12). If we truly love God with every fiber of our being and our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39), there will not be room for evil to find a home within us.

Strong violent emotions are dangerous. As noted several times in this brief article, nothing good will come from it!