

**THEME: SEVEN DEADLY PASSIONS – HATRED**

**TOPIC: WHAT IS HATRED?**

**TEXT: LUKE 6:27; MATTHEW 5:43-44; 1 JOHN 2:9; 3:15; 4:20; PROVERBS 10:12**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines hatred as a condition or state of relation in which one person hates another.

The emotion of hate, active dislike, detestation, enmity, ill will, malevolence goes on to say, dislike easily rises into hatred.

We are looking at hatred because it flows to the contrary of the graces of the Christian life and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

When Paul listed the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians he uses a singular word, 'fruit'. He began with love and then mentions nine.

It gives the impression that once you have love other fruits can really be manifest.

The irony of it then is that the absence of love is the absence of the nine fruits of the Spirit. The absence of the nine fruits of the Spirit is to make one not produce the fruit that project the Christian life at all.

## **ACRONYM OF HATRED IS:**

- Hostility
- Animosity
- Target of a negative emotion
- Repulsive behaviour
- Evil as a by-product
- Demand for a negative, hateful action

## **WHAT IS HATRED?**

- a. Hatred is a feeling of dislike towards an object, a person or place. It is a major subject for our study particularly as it relates to other people.
- b. It is also a major subject for us because it is more than the pumping of a negative emotion, it is a sin and a twisting of character which takes people away from the fruit of the Spirit and the lifestyle of God.

## **WHAT IS THE ROOT OF HATRED?**

Firstly, there is prejudice. This could be racial, religious, sexual, and social prejudice.

With racial prejudice, certain people feel that those who are not of their race are inferior to them. Such feeling of superiority goes to extreme when, because of their achievements, progress or elevation of the one considered to be inferior, hatred becomes manifest.

Aaron and Miriam were angry because of Moses' marriage to an Ethiopian. ***Numbers 12:1***

Religious prejudice is when people cannot accept other people's religion and therefore feel like they must correct things. In the end they take things to extremes.

People also express hatred because of hurts of the past. Shemai the Benjamite was angry and expressed hatred and cursed David as he walked through the town he lived assuming that all the calamities that had fallen upon the house of Saul was all David's fault.

- a. Hatred must be behind most of the laws that were passed following the enslavement of blacks, thus limiting them mentally, socially, spiritually for hundreds of years.
- b. Hatred was why Jews were killed during the holocaust by Hitler who justified his quest for a pure Aryan race and so destroyed whoever was different.
- c. Hatred is the detestation of a person, sometimes for no reason.
- d. Hatred could be because there is conflict between two people or a group of people - ethnic cleansing, inter-tribal fighting, boundary arguments are all manifestations of hatred.

There are also times when it is very hard to get to the bottom of the expression of hatred or why certain people are just mean and hateful.

## **CONCLUSION**

Hatred is a poison that destroys us from within, producing bitterness that eats away at our hearts and minds. This is why the Scriptures tell us not to let a "root of bitterness" spring up in our hearts (**Hebrews 12:15**).

Hatred also destroys the personal witness of a Christian because it removes him from fellowship with the Lord and other believers. Let us be careful to do as the Lord advised and keep short accounts with everyone about everything, no matter how small, and the Lord will be faithful to forgive, as He has promised (**1 John 1:9**).

Jesus calls us to love our enemies, even those who hate us. We are not to have hate in our hearts for our brothers, neighbours, or enemies. Each person we encounter is loved and made in the image of God — even those who hate him. And if we truly love God, we will love His people, even if we disagree with them or don't particularly like them. There is still no room for hate.