A Christian is Known by his Hate

Proverbs 6:12-19

God is love, but God also hates. He hates all that is not in harmony with His holy Person. As believers we need to learn to love what God loves and hate what God hates. In Proverbs 6:16-19 we learn of six, yea seven things that God hates and that are an abomination to Him. He detests these sins.

Our Lord said, "By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). The world will know that you are a Christian by your love. It is also true that the world will know that you are a Christian by your hate. Everyone hates. It is a universal emotion. What a person hates reveals much about his character.

To avoid sinful hatred, we must hate what our God hates, exhibiting a righteous indignation which is pleasing to the Lord. "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil" (Psalm 97:10). Those who love the Lord need to hate whatever is contrary to God's holy Person and will. A wicked person is described as one who "abhorreth not evil" (Psalm 36:4). God commands His children to "abhor that which is evil" (Rom. 12:9). The word "*abhor*" means to shrink back from something in horror, much like the reaction a person might have if he were to suddenly meet a rattlesnake on the path. Those who fear the LORD hate evil, pride, arrogancy, the evil way and the <u>froward</u> [perverse] mouth (Prov. 8:13).

The closer we get to the Lord, the more we exemplify His love and His hatred. "Lord, help me to hate sin as You do, to detest it, to abhor it, to flee from it. May I especially hate the sin I find in my own life." "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way" (Psalm 119:104).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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