

PSALM 5

A HATE SONG



FIRST BYRON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

DAVID MURRAY
JULY 18, 2021 (PM)

INTRODUCTION

Some hate is holy. Of course, a lot of hate, most hate, is not holy, and therefore should be repented of. But hate can be holy, and can even be part of our praise to God. The idea of holy hate may be a strange concept to you, but I hope to persuade you not only of its validity, but of its value.

If we're honest, we all feel hate at times, we all feel guilty about it at times, and, at times, we know it's harming us. **So, how should we hate in a healthy way?** How can we process hate in a way that both helps us rip out hateful hate but also helps us ripen healthy hate.

BACKGROUND

This is our fifth sermon in the series, 'Psychology in the Psalms.' Psychology is the scientific study of how people behave, think, and feel. It investigates the connections between feeling, thinking, and doing. The Psalms are God's infallible study of the connections between feeling, thinking, and doing. They stimulate healthy thoughts, feelings, and actions. But they also help us process dangerous and damaging emotions like hate. So far we've felt the following Psalms:

- Psalm 1: A Happy Song
- Psalm 2: An Fight Song
- Psalm 3: A Peace Song
- Psalm 4: A Love Song
- Psalm 5: A Hate Song

In Psalm 5, David is struggling with a spiritual problem. He's groaning and crying in his morning worship, praying, offering a sacrifice, and waiting for God's help (1-3). As the rest of the Psalm reveals, he's struggling with how to hate in a godly way. In the rest of the Psalm, God helps him hate in a worshipful way.



Is it ever OK to hate? Let's ask God.



1. GOD HATES EVIL WORKERS (4-6, 9-10)

God loves all people as made in his image

God is our model for loving even our enemies (Matt. 5:43-48). We are to love them for the same reasons that God loves them: he made them and made them in his image. We are to love them in the same way that God loves them: prayer, provision, protection, politeness, and preaching the Gospel to them.

God hates evil people for destroying his image

How can God hate those he also loves? Is this not a contradiction? How do we resolve this? Some have tried to resolve it by saying the God of the Old Testament was horrible but the God of the New Testament is much nicer. I hope you know your Bibles and theology well enough to know that God is unchangeable.

Others have argued that David was a vengeful and hateful person that we should not follow. He was an Old Testament believer who lacked light and love, but New Testament believers should not copy him.

There are many problems with this attempted resolution. Here are just three. First, David was far from vengeful. If anything he bent over backwards to love his enemies. Second, he's not taking vengeance personally, but handing them over to God. Third, Paul quotes this Psalm approvingly (Rom. 12:19).

We can resolve this is by saying that in some ways God loves evil people and in other ways he hates evil people. He loves them as made in his image, but hates them as evil people destroying his image.

In some ways, we can all identify with this challenging concept of loving people in one way but hating them in another. Someone said to me recently of a rebellious child, "I love him, but I don't like him." They were attempting to put words on this strange feeling of loving and hating someone at the same time. They love them in some ways, but hate them in other ways.

That's OK, because so does God, as this Psalm reveals: God does not delight in the wicked (4a); God does not dwell with the wicked (4b-5a); God hates all evildoers (5b); God destroys liars (6a); God abhors murderers and deceivers (6b, 9); God will judge evildoers (10).

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Love all made in God's image. What's your instinctive emotions when I mention these names. Donald Trump, Hilary Clinton, Joe Biden, Mark Zuckerberg, Mike Pence, LeBron James, Megan Markle. Our first instinctive feeling should be love. Now do the same for your family, friends, neighbors, etc. Ask for more God-like love.

Hate all who destroy God's image. While not stopping or diminishing in your love for any made in God's image, add the emotion of hating them for destroying God's image. Pray, speak, act against them for doing what they are doing against God, against others, and against themselves. True love requires true hate. God loves people enough to hate them. Do we?

WE DON'T LOSE LOVE BY HATING,
WE GROW LOVE BY HATING

How do I get more godly hate?
Get more of God's love.



2. GOD LOVES HIS GOOD WORK (7-8, 11-12)

David was hated with unholy hatred and therefore seeks holy hatred and holy love. God's holy hatred motivates his holy hatred, and God's holy love motivates his holy love.

God loves us

David luxuriates in the love of God. He knows that holy hatred is potentially dangerous and therefore returns again and again to God's luxurious love. Hate comes easy for some, but love is much harder and therefore needs to be fueled with God's flaming love. Look at all that flows from God's love

- God's love changes us into worshippers (7)
- God's love helps us live godly lives (8)
- God's love gives us joy (11)
- God's love protects us (11)

We love God

God's love for David inspires love for God in David. As God's love is poured into his heart, he finds a response of love. What a joy it is when God's love for us initiates our love for God. It lifts us up and we lift God up (11-12).

CHANGE YOUR STORY WITH GOD'S STORY

Ask for God's love. Don't try to earn it; ask for it. Don't try to buy it; ask for it. He's offering you it in Jesus, so why not accept it? Ask for it especially when experiencing hate from the evil.

Appreciate God's love. Respond to God's love with joyful, worshipful love. Rejoice in his holy love and holy hate.. See how much Jesus experienced God's holy hate so you could experience God's holy love.

Advance God's love. Hate like God hates to enjoy God's love. If you feel lacking in God's love it's possible that it's because you are not hating like God hates. God loves those who love like he loves and hates like he hates.

IF WE LOVE WHAT GOD HATES
WE WILL NOT KNOW GOD'S LOVE



CONCLUSION



PRAYER: Holy God, help me to hate what you hate by being loved and by loving what you love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is an example of holy hatred in your life? And of unholy hatred?
2. What other ways to people process hatred?
3. In what ways did God love and hate Jesus on the cross?
4. Who do you hate wrongfully? How can you use this sermon to love them more?
5. How is God's love related to what we hate?
6. In what ways did Jesus fulfill this Psalm?

First Byron Christian Reformed Church
8541 Byron Center Ave SW, Byron Center, MI 49315
Phone: (616) 878-9768
www.firstbyroncrc.org

Pastor David Murray
www.HeadHeartHand.org
www.livingthebible.net