

The Course of Hate

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I John 3:11-18.

B. The world is engulfed by hate.

II. The intertwining of love and hate.

A. The origin of hate.

1. Only God is capable of love—love originates outside of man.

2. Hate also originates outside of man—it comes from Satan.

B. Hate is really love twisted. The devil diverts and twists the life of God.

1. Anyone who hates is of the evil one.

2. Judas fell into the grip of hate as well as Ananias and Sapphira.

3. Hatred bursts to the surface because this is the nature of the evil one from whom it comes.

III. The nature of hate.

A. The best that can come of it is indifference.

B. It disguises itself under other names.

C. The reasons for anger—why did Cain murder Able?

1. Able offered his gift by faith in obedience to what God had asked.

2. Cain did not offer his sacrifice by faith—he devised his own religion.

3. Cain fell into hatred because he fell into a fanciful sense of injustice.

D. Hate is directed at a human object, but it is always an attack upon God.

E. The outcome of hate is murder. If the circumstances were right, a hateful person would murder only being kept by reprisal from man and God.

F. When a Christian hates it reveals that eternal life is no longer abiding in him—he slips temporarily back into the control of the devil.

IV. The answer to hate.

A. There is no answer outside the power of God through the cross of Christ.

B. We must seize the hate, confess it and receive the answering power of love from the Son of God in our hearts.

Application questions:

1. Why is hate so telling of a person's relationship with God?

2. How have you experienced hate in the past? Did you deal with it appropriately?

3. What would you say to a Christian struggling with hate who refuses to deal with it appropriately? Explain.
