

THE BALANCE OF LOVE & HATE

Romans 12:9

Last week we looked at Romans 12, and applied it specifically to discipleship. Today I want to look at V9 and apply it to discipleship. We as men of God are called to live a balanced life of Love & Hate... There are things we need to love, and there are things we need to hate. I want to consider this with you.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

I IMBALANCE:

A- The difficulty for many people is having a balanced approach in life-

1. Martin Luther that said the classic quote: *"Human nature is like a drunk peasant. Lift him into the saddle on one side, over he topples on the other side."*

a. IOW Many struggle to find the balance in life- In this case: between Love & Hate

2. Some people are ALL Love... Its all grace, its all paid for, its all ok, it doesn't really matter anyway...

a. People get this idea that God was mean in the OT & got nice the NT: God is the same in the OT & NT...

i. **Malachi 3:6** "For I am the LORD, I do not change... God is unchanging, so its not all GRACE & LOVE only-

3. Others become ALL Hate... Its all justice & judgement, its law & rule, its all hardline and perfection, HELL-

a. People get this idea that you aren't supposed to be nice, civil, inviting, & gracious... because WICKEDNESS

i. **Matthew 9:11** And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"... Why is he around the very people we hate?

B- So what we need in life & in ministry is BALANCE

1. **Psalm 85:10** Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

a. This is a picture of the cross: The atonement for humanity's access to God.

i. Its Mercy & Truth: Mercy that we didn't get what we deserved, Truth that its what our sin deserves.

ii. Righteousness of God met with the Peace that Jesus brings to our standing with God.

b. They meet bringing both truths into a balanced perspective.

2. Why we need is BALANCE... There are things to Love AND there are things to hate, not one or the other.

II LIVING TRUTH:

A- Our text gives us 3 keys to living out this balance of love and hate:

1. The first is: Being Honest: **Rom 12:9** Let love be without hypocrisy.

2. In order to be balanced you can't be hypocritical; Hypocrisy is a lie, counterfeit, not sincere...

a. When you are not genuine in salvation, in relationships, in ministry... You will find it very difficult to be balanced

b. **James 1:8** A double minded man is unstable in all his ways... You will be unstable/imbalanced.

3. The foundation of being balanced is being genuine in your relationship with God- When your wrong, get right.

B- The second key to balance is understanding sin, trespasses, & iniquities.

1. **Rom 12:9** Abhor what is evil... There are things we need to HATE & stand against.

a. Sin: Is people who do wrong but do not understand. **1 John 2:2** He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world... Jesus died for the sins of the world! We all need that.

b. Trespasses: Is a bible word for those who know the boundaries & cross into sin.

i. We will deal with trespasses till Jesus comes back. Every altar call is dealing with trespasses.

ii. **Lev 6:7** So the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord, and he shall be forgiven for any one of these things that he may have done in which he trespasses."... This details how to deal w trespasses.

c. Iniquity: This is the person who knows truth, but chooses to live on the side of sin.

i. **Matthew 7:23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

2. Understanding these will give you a balanced approach on how to judge them... Not all are the same.

a. Not all are deliberately evil, not all are blatant rebellion, not all are the spawn of satan...

C- The third key to balance is Knowing Gods Word: **Rom 9:12** Cling to what is good...

1. Gods word reveals to us the balance of God... Jesus is the manifestation of the word.

a. So; When we read, we see truth in balance... It teaches us.

i. **Luke 10:42** But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

III KEEPING THE BALANCE:

A- So how do we practically apply those 3 keys?

1. Gratitude: When we remember where we came from & the mistakes we made.

2. Humility: Keeping an Honest opinion- OF SELF! & Serving Others Selflessly (benefitting others)

3. Reading Your Bible: Getting the word in you,