



REAL MEN

Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!

Real Men can Hate!

Proverbs 8:13

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on February 17, 2024



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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the Men's Ministry series: **REAL MEN: Rediscovering Biblical Manhood!**
 - Let's begin with a word of prayer. **Pray!**
 - This series was born out of the idea that the modern church has a problem.
 - When Jesus said that He would build His church He was talking to men.
 - He ordained those men to take His message out to plant churches and ordain more men to lead in building His church.
 - But why men? Why not ordain women to do it?
 - Jesus had lots of women who followed Him and believed in Him.
 - Why didn't Jesus choose any of them to be one of His apostles.
 - It wasn't a cultural thing. Jesus regularly went against the culture.
 - It goes back to the creation account.
 - God made Adam first and then later He created Eve.
 - Why didn't God create them at the same time?
 - And the way God created them.
 - Adam was created 'of the dust of the ground' but Eve was created from 'one of his [Adam's] ribs'.
 - Why do it differently?
 - God doesn't do anything arbitrarily. He has a reason and purpose.
 - Adam (and by extension, all men) was created by God to represent God as the head over all creation.
 - Eve (and by extension, all women) was created to help him do that.
 - God could have created Adam and Eve at the same time and made them so that they were more like one another than they were.
 - He didn't and He didn't for a reason.
 - He created men to lead, and He symbolized that by making Adam first. **Dale Partridge – The Manliness of Christ**
- "Men are not just called to lead but are anatomically, biologically, and hormonally designed to lead."**

- This is not to say that women are incapable of leading – it's just not what they were designed by God to do.
 - Because men have abdicated their God-ordained role of leadership to women, God's perfect order is corrupted.
 - And that corruption is manifesting all through the culture.
 - And sadly, it has corrupted Christ's church.
 - This world, including the church is the way it is because real men, men who embrace their biblically defined masculinity, are caving under the pressure of a godless culture.
 - Men are becoming effeminate, and women are becoming masculine.
 - Even churches are succumbing to this evil and portraying Jesus as soft.
 - It is out of order, and it will lead to more and more disorder in the world.
 - Last time, in the first message in this series, we looked at the two animals used to describe Jesus - the lion and the lamb.
 - They depict two ways that Jesus interacts with the world.
 - The lion can be fierce and violent. The lamb is gentle and humble.
 - Both are always true of Jesus.
 - While He walked on the earth, the one people witnessed was the Lamb, almost exclusively.
 - But occasionally, Jesus let the lion out.
 - And when He comes back again, He is coming as the lion to execute judgment on a wicked, God-hating, Christ-rejecting world. (**Isaiah 13:9**)
- Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it.**
- No one will see the gentle Lamb of God in that day.
 - They will witness the unrestrained Lion of the tribe of Judah.
 - Real men can be violent but are usually gentle and humble.
 - We are going to examine another trait of God and then examine it in the context of biblical manhood.
 - Besides holiness, what is the overarching trait that defines God. Love! (**1 John 4:7-8**)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

- God is love, but that love is also expressed in His holiness, justice, and truth.

- These are all facets of God's perfection.

- What would we say is the opposite of love? Hate!

Hate or hatred: Hatred or hate is an intense negative emotional response towards certain people, things or ideas, usually related to opposition or revulsion toward something. Hatred is often associated with intense feelings of anger, contempt, and disgust. Hatred is sometimes seen as the opposite of love.

- If God is love, is He capable of hate? Can God hate?

- The obvious answer is yes. **(Proverbs 6:16-19)**

These six *things* the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ a false witness *who* speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.

- The word love appears in the Bible over 500 times and the word hate appears about 200 times.

- Most of us were taught that God is love and that hate is evil.

- If God can hate and he cannot do evil, maybe our understanding of hate is amiss.

- Is it ever right for believers to hate? **(Proverbs 8:13)**

The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil; pride and arrogance and the evil way and the perverse mouth I hate.

- Hate is not evil. In fact, hate is the right response to evil.

- Solomon, the wisest man on earth until Christ said **(Ecclesiastes 3:8a)** [There is...] a time to love, and a time to hate...

- The command to hate evil is also found in the New Testament. **(Romans 12:9)**

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

- 'Abhor' is similar to hate.

- And then the writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 45 as he speaks of Christ. **(Hebrews 1:8-9)**

But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

- God is love – God is good – God is holy – God is just, and God can hate!
 - Proverbs 8:13 teaches that to hate evil is evidence of the fear of the Lord.
 - That means that we hate evil to the degree that we reverence God.
 - That leads us to ask the question, “What is evil? Who decides what evil is?”
 - Well, I can tell you that it is not our culture that determines good from evil.
 - In our culture, it is evil, an act of hate, to refer to a man who is pretending to be a woman as a man.
 - They would also say that saying to that man who is pretending to be a woman that he doesn’t have a womb and therefore cannot give birth to children is an evil act.
 - Humans are not capable of determining good from evil.
 - Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and butchered over 1,000 people.
 - They called it good – it was unadulterated evil.
 - The topic of evil is very complicated.
 - For this study, I would like to give you a simple definition of evil.
- Evil: Anything that is not in alignment with the revealed will of God.**
- Again, evil is much more complicated than this simple definition, but it gives us a starting point.
 - Here is a point that we must not overlook.
 - God is love! He doesn’t turn off His love when He hates.
 - Because God is love, and just, and holy, and true, His response to evil is hate.
 - God’s will is perfect and is a reflection of His love, holiness, justice, and truth.
 - Anything that is out of alignment with God’s perfect will is unloving, unholy, unjust, and false, and therefore evil.
 - Turn to **John 2**.
 - The problem with us as humans is how to express hate in a way that is not evil.
 - Jesus gives us an example of how He did it.
 - **John 2:13**

- The Passover feast was big business for the Jews in Jerusalem.
 - The problem was that it was contrary to the will of God.
 - **John 2:14**
 - These Jewish businessmen were taking advantage of people who were coming to worship God.
 - As we read the next verse, I want you to ask yourself, ‘Is this an expression of love or of hate?’
 - **John 2:15-16**
 - So, what do you think – love or hate? The correct answer is, ‘Yes!’
 - Hate is an expression motivated by love.
 - If you don’t love something, it can’t cause you to express hate.
 - Here is a stupid example.
 - Suppose someone comes in here with a pint mushroom ice cream.
 - If they took one bite and then threw it away, I won’t care. It’s nasty.
 - But if they did the same thing with Ben & Jerry’s Caramel Core – now they have a problem.
 - When God hates it is because something is out of alignment with His revealed will about something He loves.
 - God can hate and because God can hate real men can hate too.
 - But before you start hating on mushroom ice cream, consider four things – your mind – your heart – your body – the Spirit.
 - We are going to do these quickly and then I will close with one overall thought.
 - First – **Your Mind**.
 - Before you allow hate to be expressed, it must be in alignment with God’s revealed will. (**Romans 12:2**)
- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**
- Second – **Your Heart**.
 - Check your heart before you express hatred. (**Jeremiah 17:9-10a**)
- The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?**
- ¹⁰ I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.**
- Ask God to examine your heart.
 - Third – **Your body**.

- Before you allow hate to be expressed, you must make sure that you are not allowing your flesh to control you. (**Galatians 5:16-17**)
I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
- That naturally leads us to the last one.
- Fourth – **The Spirit**.
- The Spirit of God will not lead us contrary to the will of God.
- Humble yourself before Him and let Him lead you. (**Romans 8:13-14**)
For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
- One last thought as we prepare to close.
- Jesus is the Lion and the Lamb, but in the gospel, we see much more Lamb than Lion.
- Real Men are always humble and gentle until they can't be.
- The same is true of hate.
- Love ought to be what the world sees from God's real men 99% of the time.
- But when the Spirit of God stirs them up about the evil in this world, they must act.
- But first, check your mind, heart, and body.
- And then, as much as is possible, do it in love.
- Real men love what God loves and hate what God hates.
- Real men don't love the way the world loves, and they don't hate the way the world hates.
- **Let's pray!**