

1 John 2:11-12

But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. 1 John 2:11

But he who hates his brother

1 John 4:20 If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

How would you define the word "hate"?

In the Greek Dictionary <Miseo> means "to hate" of malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards others whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity. Merriam Webster's Dictionary's definition is to have a strong aversion, to find very distasteful. Remember the time so and so did that hurtful thing to you? The very thought could stir up bitter feelings.

1 John 3:15 states: **Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.**

Why would John call hate murder?

John Gill's Exposition of the Bible states, "He is a murderer of him in his heart, even as he that lusts after a woman hath committed adultery with her in his heart, out of which arise murders, as well as adulteries; it is not only taking away life, but also causeless anger, malice, and hatred, that is a breach of the sixth command."

Ladies, what is the 6th Commandment?

Not only do we sin by the hurtful or angry words that come out of our mouth, or by sinful behavior to ourselves or others, but we can also sin in our thoughts and heart. Hatred is a "heart" sin, and any hateful thought or act is an act of murder in God's eyes in which justice will be demanded. The Lord is the righteous Judge who searches the heart and tests the mind.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'" But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

Mark 7:20-23 And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.”

One who hates is said to be walking in darkness and opposed to the light. Hatred is a poisonous sin that destroys us from within, producing bitterness that eats away at our hearts and minds.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.

How does hatred destroy our personal witness as a Christian?

The Bible tells us, those who harbor hatred in their heart are malicious deceivers. Those who spread gossip and slander are, in effect, concealing their own hatred through lying lips.

Proverbs 10:18-19 He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool. When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.

Proverbs 26:22-28 The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts of the body. Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross are burning lips and a wicked heart. He who hates disguises it with his lips, but he lays up deceit in his heart. When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart. Though his hatred covers itself with guile, His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him. A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Something to ponder: Do I guard my heart, mind, and mouth?

Who and what is the remedy for hate?

God loves us simply because he loves us. We do not have to work for his affection. It is by His grace we are saved. God pours out his love over us. Since God is love and loves us, we are to love others. Everything we do should be done out of love for God and others.

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. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

1 John 4:16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 Corinthians 13:13 So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Something to ponder: Does everything I do come from love of God and others?

Is there ever a time that a believer is to hate? When?

It is acceptable to hate those things that God hates. God hates sin and wickedness. We can and will hate those things that are contrary to God's Word and nature.

Psalm 97:10a Let those who love the Lord hate evil.

Psalm 119:104 From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore, I hate every false way.

Psalm 119:163 I hate and despise falsehood, but I love Your law.

Romans 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Something to ponder: Do I hate what God hates?

Is in darkness and walks in darkness because the darkness has blinded his eyes

Have you shared the gospel to someone and they understand the truth of the gospel but refuse to accept the gift of God's grace? Why is that?

Gill's Exposition of the Bible states "He sees not what is before him, nor what stumbling blocks lie in the way; he is not aware of the snares, pits, and traps he is in danger of falling into; nor does he know and consider what these paths of darkness, of sin, and ignorance, and infidelity, lead unto, even unto utter darkness, where is weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth: and the reason is, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes; either Satan, the god of this world, who blinds the minds of them that believe not, and who is darkness itself, and the cause of darkness in himself and in others.

So darkened is the unsaved person's heart that he doesn't even realize it: "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). The heartbreak of living in the darkness is that they are blind, they can walk, but they cannot see the deception that has enveloped their life. They are like the Pharisees whose stubborn refusal to see their own sins kept them in spiritual darkness, not only that but they rejected the Lord's offer of forgiveness. They will never see until the Lord unveils their eyes and shines His glory in them.

Matthew 13:14-15 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4 Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Revelation 3:17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

Thank you, God, that by Your mercy and Son, believers have Your light and can walk in Your light. The Holy Spirit has illuminated our minds and hearts and He has drawn us to You. With the help of the Spirit we are able to discern spiritual truth that never made sense before we realized we needed a Savior. You Lord have placed in us a new heart that desires to know You, obey You, and walk in holiness and newness of life.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

2 Timothy 2:21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

If believers in Jesus were to truly reflect Him in their lives, they would need to live out of step with the world around them. May we all keep in step with God!

What helps you to keep your eyes on Jesus?

I write to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. 1 John 2:12

I write to you little children because your sins are forgiven you

The Greek word used for children is <teknion> infants, little children, Christian converts.

Adam Clarke's Commentary states, those who were probably the apostle's own converts, and members of the Church over which he presided. But it may be applied to young converts in general; those who can call God Abba, Father, by the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean to have your sins forgiven?

Because of what Jesus Christ has done for us on the cross, His death, burial and resurrection our sins have been cleansed and removed. The debt we owed has been paid by Christ. The only requirement to receive His forgiveness is that we confess our sin, turn from it (repent), and trust or believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Those who God has forgiven are forgiven indeed! He no longer holds our wickedness against us when we trust in Christ. He sees us as righteous and acceptable in His sight.

Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Luke 5:20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

Luke 7:47-50 "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Romans 4:6-7 Just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered."

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

How can we show others forgiveness?

For His name's sake

When we were born, we each were given a name. It could have possibly been a cherished family name, or a name you do not like. The point is we were all given a name. When I was born I was given the name of Christine. The name is derived from the word Christ. It means a Christian, or follower of Christ. I appreciate my name and what it represents today. I also pray I live up to the definition of my name. But I am also called by nicknames: Chris, Chrissy, Tina, honey/babe, Mom, Gigi, etc.

In the Bible, names play a variety of roles. Proverbs 22:1 states, *“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.”* A good name praises a person’s character.

The Savior who is Christ the Lord was given the name of Jesus. *And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:21.* This Name was given to Him by the Father and affirms His divinity and supreme authority. Jesus’ name is like no other! His Name is the “Name above all names!” As we declare His Name, we declare the lordship of Jesus over our lives.

Ephesians 1:21-23 Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.

Hebrews 1:1-4 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

One way God revealed Himself was through Jesus Divine names. Jesus Names are perfect! He perfectly represents everything His Name is!

Lamb of God, Mighty One, Prince of Peace, Christ, Messiah, Holy Anointed One, Redeemer, Deliverer, Author and Finisher of our faith. He is called the Root of Jesse, the Branch of David, Comforter, Mediator, Intercessor, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, Bright Morning Star, the Cornerstone, Keeper, Good Shepherd, Healer, Judge, King of kings and Lord of lords. He is known as Alpha and Omega, Son of God and Man, Bread of Life, Fortress, Shield, Sustainer, Sovereign Lord, Love, Creator...the list

of Jesus' Names goes on and on. In fact, in the twenty-two chapters of Revelation there are more than sixty-seven Names and titles for Jesus. The greatest insight into adoring the Lord comes by way of His Names and titles in His Word. Each name represents a characteristic of His nature, His reputation, His character, rank, majesty, power, glory, excellence, holiness, etc.

Luke 1:49 For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

John 12:28 Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, saying, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."

His sacrifice is linked to His Name. It is on account of the Name of Christ; and what "*He only*" has done for us on the cross on behalf of all men. Jesus has now atoned for sin and vindicated the Father's honor so that our "sins are forgiven for *His Name's sake*."

Matthew Henry's Commentary states, "Sins are forgiven either for God's name's sake, for the praise of his glory (his glorious perfections displayed in forgiveness), or for Christ's name's sake, upon his score, and upon the account of the redemption that is in him; and those that are forgiven of God are strongly obliged to relinquish this world, which so interferes with the love of God.

Psalm 25:11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

Psalm 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And deliver us, and provide atonement for our sins, for Your name's sake!

Psalm 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known.

Jeremiah 14:7 O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do it for Your name's sake; for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You.

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

He has the supreme Name and whoever shall call on that Name, "Christ," in faith and repentance, is cleansed and forgiven of sin with His cleansing blood.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.

What should the name Christian or follower of Jesus represent to the world?

Because we are His and represent the Name of Jesus, we are commanded to be changed and different than the world.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

John 17:6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”

John 17:26 “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Ephesians 3:15 From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

Mark 9:41 For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

Through His Name we have received grace, faith and obedience.

Romans 1:5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name.

Praise your Name King Jesus! Thank you for calling us Your own just because of Your Name’s sake. We are grateful for the gift of eternal life and for what Jesus has done for us. At the sound of your Name Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord to the praise and glory of Your mercy and grace!