

Hatred & Mental Attitude Sins that Accompany It; Believers Must Love Their Enemies but Beware of Them, Mt 7:15, 16:6, 12; Mk 12:38-40; Lk 12:15; Phil 3:2-3

23. There are two divine policies having to do with interpersonal relationships that are issued to the church: (1) “Bless those who persecute you,” and (2) “Love one another.”
24. The opposite of these is hatred which can be expressed by mental attitude sins: to detest, abhor, or loathe; to have utter disgust or intolerance [MWCD-11].
25. These mental attitude sins can be express through active ill will in words and conduct from a persecuting spirit [*The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*].
26. Hatred is a mental attitude sin that is expressed by hostility toward another person. This is not separation due to personal idiosyncrasies but an aggressive dislike for another.
27. The catalyst for the hatred may be based on the actions of the object of the hatred or it may be imagined by the one who hates. Either way hatred results.
28. The Scripture is clear that we may not hate anyone: we may not aggressively, with malice, project hostility and persecution upon one who despitefully uses us or persecutes us:

Luke 6:27 - “I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

v. 28 - bless those who curse you [καταράομαι, *kataraoimai*: to wish one evil; to give one over to ruin], pray for those who mistreat you [ἐπηρεάζω, *epēreazō*: to insult, treat despitefully, accuse falsely].

29. Malice is a state of mind that leads to a multiplicity of sins and wrongdoings. The mental attitude is so dangerous that it is incorporated into legal terminology:

Gifis, Stephen H. *Dictionary of Legal Terms*. 3d ed. (Hauppauge, NY: Barron's Educational Series, 1998), 287:

MALICE the state of mind that accompanies the intentional doing of a wrongful act without justification and in wanton or willful disregard of the plain likelihood that harm will result.

In malicious prosecution, there is intent to institute a prosecution for a purpose other than bring an offender to justice.

30. The idea is to discredit the reputation of the person in order to destroy his message. Truth cannot be destroyed but destroying the credibility of the messenger can be attempted.
31. Regardless of the machinations of evil men, the believer must learn to bear no grudge, seek no revenge, or indulge in lust patterns that lower him to the level of his adversary.
32. Therefore, the honor code demands that the believer love unconditionally others in the royal family. This problem-solving device does not require overt friendliness. It requires a disposition free of mental attitude sins under the power of the Holy Spirit.
33. However, prudence and discernment require the believer to also accompany unconditional love with certain common sense safeguards that are categorized in Scripture:

1. Beware: προσέχω, *prosechō*: to be on alert, be on one's guard against something; to be on watch.

Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."

Matthew 16:6 - And Jesus said to them [**the disciples**], "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

v. 12 - They understood that He did not say to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Mark 12:38 - In His teaching He was saying: "Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places,

v. 39 - and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets,

v. 40 - who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."

Luke 12:15 - Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Philippians 3:2 - Beware of the dogs [κύων, *kuōn*: Judaizers, false teachers] beware of the evil workers [the teachings of the Judaizers], beware of the false circumcision [κατατομή, *katatomē*: *kata-*: downward, plus *-tomē*: to slice; lit.: to slice downward, or to emasculate];

v. 3 - for we [those saved by grace through faith alone] are the true circumcision [περιτομή, *peritomē*: *peri-*: around, plus *-tomē*: to slice: to cut around, to prune, to encircle with a view to taking away, or circumcision] who worship the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.