

## You ... A Murderer?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**1 John 3:15:** "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

That is a chilling verse, isn't it? A murderer, that is what the Word of God says. While many people have someone that they hate, they would not consider themselves to be murderers.

Isn't that the way that it usually is, God hates things that we don't think are all that bad? When the Lord says something is sin, it is sin, no matter what man thinks, or says. Man thinks that the person that he doesn't like, as long as he does no harm to them, he can ignore, not speak to, and avoid without doing wrong. Can he? He may not directly harm them, but he has not done them any good either.

Can we hate a man, and, at the same time, love God? This is two different situations and are unrelated isn't it? God says no. In **1 John 4:20-21** we are told, "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how

can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also." That is as plain and easy to understand as it could be. God says that we are to love one another as he has loved us. This is not an option, but a command of God.

The love of God is on a higher level than the flesh knows. Mankind loves people based on how we feel. God loves us by choice and it is not because we are easy to love, or are deserving of his love. People love one another as long as they keep each other happy. If you have trouble believing this, look at the number of divorces that are in the paper each week. They thought they were in love when they married, but somewhere along the way their feelings changed. It is sad that they don't have enough love for each other to work out their problems and to live according to God's Word.

It is the same with friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even relatives. If there is something that is causing friction between them, they will often fuss, and/or avoid one another. This is not love, neither in the world view, or the spiritual view of what love is supposed to be. I have

witnessed people say hi to someone and remark that they were civil, but that they didn't like or want to be around the person. Why put on a show for the public when it is just an act? Could anyone be thinking that this will satisfy the Lord? As I have mentioned before, I can't see someone in heaven crossing the streets of gold to avoid someone that they don't like - can you? I don't believe that it will ever happen because God knows what is in the heart of man.

A parent loves the child, even though the child's behavior may not be good. That parent will try to discipline the child and teach them to do better because he, or she, loves the child. They will not hold a grudge against the son, or daughter, just because they don't like what they do, but will try to help them, pray for them, and love them. That is what God wants us to do for each other. Jesus said it best in **John 13:34** when he said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Once again the Lord commands that we love each other. Not with feelings, or emotion, but as a choice to obey the Lord. Sometimes we may have to work at it, but it can, and must, be done.

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