



sermon notes

“Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin”

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These Statements are in the Bible – True or False

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| 1. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” | T | F |
| 2. “But the Lord provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the belly of the whale three days and three nights.” | T | F |
| 3. “And Joseph saddled the donkey and sat Mary upon it.” | T | F |
| 4. “When the woman saw that the apple was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some of it and ate it.” | T | F |
| 5. “Arriving in Bethlehem Mary and Joseph sought shelter for the night but the innkeeper responded there was no room in the inn.” | T | F |

I. The Origin of “Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin.”

- St. Augustine, around the year 400 A.D., while Bishop of North Africa, wrote to group of nuns encouraging them to remain chaste, In the letter he asked for them to have a “love for mankind and a hatred of sins.”
- In 1929, Mahatma Gandhi wrote in his autobiography, “Hate the sin and not the sinner is a precept which, though easy enough to understand, is rarely practiced, and that is why the poison of hatred spread in the world.”

II. What is sin?

- The Old Testament Hebrew word: **chata**
- The New Testament Greek word: **hamartia**
- Definition of sin: _____, or to “miss the mark.”

Sin can be any thought, word, or action that is contrary to God’s will.
It can also be a failure to act or do something we should do.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

For even though the desire to good is in me, I am not able to do it. I don't do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do. Romans 7:18-19 (TEV)

III. If we all sin and miss the mark, is it true that all sins are equal?

A) YES, in the sense that _____

B) NO, when it comes to the _____ of our actions

IV. Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

A) Should Christians “love the sinner?”

- Absolutely.
- Jesus was called a friend of sinners.

Paul wrote:

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)

There is no doubt that Jesus loved sinners,
and we are to do the same.

It is important to note that Jesus never said, “Love the Sinner.” Instead, Jesus commanded us to _____.

Our neighbor is everyone we meet, and
those we haven't met.

I believe the reason Jesus never commands us to “Love the Sinner” is because we would see others _____, and that leads to _____.

Example: The story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector from Luke 18.

Luke introduces the story with these words:

Jesus also used this illustration with some who were sure that God approved of them while they looked down on everyone else. Luke 18:8 (GW)

“Love the Sinner?” Yes, but we need to focus on seeing others as neighbors rather than focusing on their sin.

B) Hate the Sin

- Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is seen with drunks, prostitutes, thieves, adulterers, and others. He ate with them, healed them, and called them to be his disciples. Never do we hear him say, “I love you, but I hate your sin.”

The only time we see Jesus demonstrating a hatred of sin occurs when the sin is committed by religious leaders.

V. The truth is “Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin” is found in the very first word:

_____.