

It Is Written

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They Call It Hate

By Terry Wane Benton

Calling something "sin" that separates you from God and the righteous is the modern idea of "hate speech." But the truth is that pointing out sin is love. It is like a doctor pointing out cancer. It may not be what we want to hear, but it is what we need to hear so that we can get it properly addressed and save us from the pain and misery of what untreated cancer can do to us.

If I point out that there are two genders, not three, four, or ten, that is not hate speech. That is truth! God made us "male and female" (Genesis 1-2). That is all! It is hateful to try to force us to recognize a third classification. God has the say! He made males and females. He expects us to accept what we are and be thankful to Him for who we are. We do not pretend to be other than what our birth shows that we are. If the baby has no choice, we have no right to change how God made us. God's word talks about those "who exchanged the truth of God for the lie" (Romans 1:25), and then they pursue "vile passions" and "exchanged the natural use for what is against nature" (Romans 1:26-27). Thus, the homosexual movement, the transgender movement, and the bisexual movement are built on lies people tell themselves. After convincing themselves of the lie that we can over-rule nature and God, they then expect the rest of humanity to play into their self-deception and give them approval. Romans 1:32 says giving approval is also a sin.

The modern deception hates any religion that will point out sin. The only sin to this modern philosophy is if you call something a sin that should not be approved. To us, it is like doctors approving of cancer. Sin is a cancer of the soul, the mind, and the heart. It either entirely rejects God or tries to make God in their own image, that is, they want only a god that accepts any sin that we accept. They call their imagined god "loving" because he never disapproves of us. They call any disapproval "hate" and will not be satisfied with you ever telling the truth.

If the pattern we see holds up, they will remove articles like this or shut down churches that continue to read Romans 1 or I Corinthians 5-6. They hate the truth and truth-tellers. Jesus said, "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." (John 3:20).

There is the old philosophy that "there is no truth." Pilate asked, "What is truth?" He didn't want to face the truth. People pretend there is no truth because they hate the truth. Truth is needed in our day. People need to hear it. Love shares the truth so people can return to a proper relationship with God. Truth is not hate. Truth is love. It uncovers the cancer of self-deception. It uncovers those issues of departure from holiness and fellowship with God. The greatest life is in harmony and fellowship with God. Teaching about how and why to be reconciled to God is what love demands. That should never be allowed to be called hate.

It's Not How You Feel

By Aubrey Belue

Does it "feel good?" Does it feel "right?" If so, today's culture says, "go for it!" Thus, we make "right" what our feelings say it is, rather than what it really is. Somehow, we have reached the point in contemporary reasoning that most say that one can pursue his individual dream without having to confront the consequences of bad or wrong choices. Believe in God, or not; accept Christ, or not; live morally, or not--to those people, it is all the same. Do what you want to do, what you feel like doing,

what you think is right in doing, and God will just set aside His rules to approve of you regardless. We confuse civic freedom with divine approval, and so long as it is "legal" (and some are not too "picky" about that), it is seen as acceptable.

The question is, "Is our standing with God determined by our feelings, or by the rule of divine law?" Is it a matter of God's will, or ours? Serious consequences follow the reasoning described above:

1. It nullifies the Bible as a defining book. In fact, the Bible becomes largely useless, since it can at any point be superseded by one's personal feelings. No doubt we "feel" like it has some value, but it can always be overridden by our feelings. There is no sense of responsibility to conform to its message.

2. It glorifies human wisdom and authority. The highest court of appeal becomes the human mind and thought, rather than the mind of God. If what I feel is right, even if it contradicts what God teaches in His word, then MY idea is seen as better than His; my authority as greater than His. In so doing we minimize the greater wisdom and power of an Almighty God.

3. It results in anarchy and chaos. Rejecting a common source of authority -- the written word of God -- each becomes his own source. There are as many "rights" as there are people to think them up. No wonder we live in troubled times. No wonder our children are so confused as to morals and religion. Countless competing human ideas bombard them (and us) with equally justifiable claims to what is "right."

4. It ignores God's place in our universe. He has defined right from wrong, sin from righteousness, truth from error. Any course conflicting with His "law" exacts terrible penalties.

The truth? The solution to mankind's problems lie not in human minds, but in the unsearchable mind of an all-wise God. As we have observed before in this column, it is His world, we eat His bread, drink His water, and breathe His air. In addition to being ill-equipped by nature and inclination to determine "right", we belong to Him and are obligated to be obedient. Man's way never "fixes" anything important, nor moves us one step toward fellowship with God. This may not be the popular line, but we are interested in Truth, not compromise, and all human objections aside, God's word is still true, and His way is still the only way (John 14:6).

To Please Or Be Pleased

By Kyle Campbell

Although the 80s were considered the "Me Generation," selfishness has always been in fashion. When someone thinks about "pleasing," which means to be agreeable, or to accommodate, they usually think about pleasing themselves, but there are some better alternatives that someone needs to please.

First, we must please God. Colossians 1:10 says, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God" (cf. Colossians 3:20; 1 John 3:22; Hebrews 13:21).

Second, we are to please our employees. Titus 2:9-10 says, "Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." We should not be argumentative with our bosses, even when they are overbearing.

Third, we please our neighbors. Paul wrote, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth" (1 Corinthians 10:24; cf. Matthew 22:39; Romans 15:2). Finally, we please all that they may be saved. "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved" (1 Corinthians 10:33; 9:19-23; 1 Peter 3:15). This scripture is not a license to do what we want, though. Some people may be in need of a bold denunciation of sin.

Pleasing as we should takes effort. Pleasing ourselves should not be our number one priority (Philippians 2:4-5, 21; Matthew 16:24). A lot of us want to seek our own, but Christ is the ultimate answer for selfishness.