HATE

There are those that would have us believe, and that is some of our own brethren as well, that there is nothing said about “hate” in the Bible. Such is not true. We are so concerned about love these days one wonders if the opposite is ever considered.

The Bible definitely uses the word “hate.” The word is used 170 times in the American Standard Version, the English Standard Version and the King James Version. Although the verses in which they are used is different sometimes, they agree on the number.

The word means different things because of the way they are used, which should cause us to consider the context of all scripture. In the KJV in Luke 14:26 we read “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.” Are we really to hate our family? When we look at a parallel passage in Matthew 10:37 it says, “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

In many passages “hate” means just that, to love less. But there are passages that address real hate.

In Prov. 6:16-19 “There are six things which Jehovah hateth; Yea, seven which are an abomination unto him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood; A heart that deviseth wicked purposes, Feet that are swift in running to mischief, A false witness that uttereth lies, And he that seweth discord among brethren.”

And we should hate the same things. You have heard it said, “hate the sin but love the sinner.” That is the way it should be but it is hard to do. The world hates us and it is hard to take sometimes but it isn’t
like we weren’t warned. Jesus said in John 15:18 “If the world hateth you, ye know that it hath hated me before it hated you.”

Love and hate are opposites of the same coin, the one that can love can also hate.

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December 16, 2014