

Love & Hate Part 9: "When we don't agree" (7-16-2017)

Series Review

- 1) **Love & Hate defined:** (Story of the Loving Father) (What & How does God hate)
- 2) **Correcting Love:** Correction is not Rejection, its Love. So Confess, Repent, and seek Forgiveness
- 3) **Loving God & people:** (Rich Young Ruler & The Good Samaritan)
- 4) **Walking in Church Unity:** Maintaining Relational Unity & Resolving Conflict

Today: Main Text **Matthew 13:24-33 (ESV)**

3 Parables: Wheat & Tares, Mustard seed grows into Tree, Leaven mixed in Flour . . .

1) Wheat & Tares

Matthew 13:24-30 (ESV)

(24) He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, (25) but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. (26) So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. (27) And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' (28) He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' (29) But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. (30) Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Note: Who can tell which is Wheat? When can you tell? Who decides? How do we handle it? With care!

2) Leaven in the Dough

Matthew 13:33 (ESV)

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Note: In scripture the leaven represents wrong teaching, sin, and compromise . . . So there are people who are wheat & tares and we let them grow together. But there is also a way of thinking and living that can permeate the whole batch.

So what do we do? Let's look to the center parable . . .

3) Be the Tree

Matthew 13:31-32 (ESV)

(31) He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. (32) It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Note: Mustard seed tends to be used as a symbol for faith . . . though it may start small it can work powerfully! Jesus always has mustard seed faith doing far more than you could imagine:

- Moves Mountains (Matthew 17:20)
- Uproots Trees & throws them in the sea! (Luke 17:6)

So what's the point? First see to your own faith, & then other's can find shade & rest.

Remember who is the Vine! We are to be the branches – I'm connected to Him!! I'm called to be rooted & grounded in Christ . . .

Ephesians 3:16-19 (ESV)

(16) that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, (17) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, (18) may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, (19) and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Notes: Since Jesus dwells in my heart, and I'm called to intimate knowledge of His Love, then I need to know the real Jesus – this is why Doctrine matters. I'm getting to know the God of the Universe, the Savior and Lord of my very soul!!

4 ways to walk this out with our brothers & sisters . . . (Teachers/Leaders who are off base is next week)

1) Beware of Confusion

2 Peter 3:14-18 (ESV)

(14) Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. (15) And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, (16) as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (17) You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. (18) But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Note: Often the problems come from ignorance or confusion – first find stability then you can do the rest . . .

2) Consider Others

Romans 14:1-3, 10-12 (ESV)

(1) As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. (2) One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. (3) Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. . . (10) Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; (11) for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (12) So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Note: Some things aren't core doctrinal issues, they are differences of opinion or even maturity. Have grace!

3) Avoid division, and correct wrong doctrine

Romans 16:17-18 (ESV)

(17) I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. (18) For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

Note: Notice the words – “contrary to doctrine” these aren't side issues of differing opinions these are things that directly contradict God's Word and sound teaching . . . You can recognize when you are familiar, and then you can avoid them. **Our Response: Avoid Them**

Titus 3:9-11 (ESV)

(9) But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. (10) As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, (11) knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Note: We can't just put our head in the sand, because division works its way in (remember the leaven?), and stirs into the whole batch!! **Our Response: Warn & Remove**

Proverbs 10:17 (ESV)

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 (ESV)

(23) Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. (24) And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, (25) correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, (26) and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Note: Learn to fight for your brother, not with your brother. Learn the importance and value of fighting over beliefs & ideas. We are trying to win the person we love, not gain the high ground in a debate!!!

Our Response: Correct w/ Gentleness

4) Correct Sin**2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 (ESV)**

(14) If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. (15) Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

Note: Watch people's fruit, don't associate with bad fruit, & warn as if warning a brother

Tim Keller

"Love without truth is sentimentality; it supports and affirms us but keeps us in denial about our flaws."

James 5:19-20 (ESV)

(19) My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, (20) let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Note: A rescue mission when successful is an absolute miracle!!!

Conclusion: A **warning** and **introduction** to next week . . .

2 Timothy 4:1-4 (ESV)

(1) I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: (2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.