

# Unsearchable Riches

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The Love of God

(Video-//[www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000005363670/charlottesville-virginia-white-nationalist-protests.html](http://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000005363670/charlottesville-virginia-white-nationalist-protests.html))

We live in a society in which many people hate other people. Last week we saw this hatred on display in white supremacists and anti-fascists in Charlottesville, Virginia. Hatred is on display nearly every week in radical Islamic terrorists and gang members in Chicago.

I am sorry to say that such hatred is not just on display in white supremacists, anti-fascists groups, radical Islamic terrorists, or gang members in Chicago. Over the years I have visited with a lot of hateful people. I have visited with children that hate their parents. I have visited with siblings that hates their sibling. I have visited with married couples that hate one another. I frequently see hate between people in sports rivalries, in business, in the media, and in politics. I have seen it much too frequently in the church and in those that say they are Christian.

The apostle John said this about hate.

1 John 4:20-21

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.  
NKJV

The Hebrew word for hate means to consider someone to be your enemy. It does not describe an emotion but a perspective. If this perspective is maintained it will produce an emotion. That emotion is called wrath. Wrath is feeling that someone is revolting, repugnant, repulsive, disgusting, detestable, foul, sickening, appalling, deplorable, intolerable, or despicable.

The emotion of wrath is dangerous and violent. While we are told to be angry and not sin, we are told to not let the sun go down on our wrath.

Ephesians 4:26

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,  
NKJV

The Greek word for anger in Ephesians 4:26 means to be exasperated or provoked. We can control the emotion of anger and act responsibly. The Greek word for wrath means a violent passion that seeks vengeance and retribution. Wrath will always control us.

Wrath develops in me for you if I maintain the perspective that you are my enemy.

### Enemy(hate)=Wrath

If we maintain a perspective that other people are our enemies, we will experience the emotion of wrath. That emotion will cause us to attack them. We can attack them by withdrawing our affection from them. Or we can attack them with our words and our actions. One of the most visible signs of hatred and wrath is lying about people to damage their reputation.

Condemnation of something wrong can appeal to the conscience of someone who is wrong. It may motivate them to seek a solution to their problem.

But the only lasting solution to the problem of hate and wrath is found in the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Jesus is the living example of someone that rose above hate. There were Jews and Romans that saw Jesus as their enemy. They hated Jesus and were full of wrath. They would eventually execute Him just like James Fields executed Heather Heyer in Charlottesville.

While dying on the cross Jesus prayed father forgive them for they know not what they do.

Luke 23:34

34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

NKJV

While men saw Jesus as their enemy...

- Jesus saw these men as lost sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 6:34)
- Jesus saw these men as children that needed a mother. (Luke 13:34)
- Jesus saw these men as enslaved prisoners that needed to be set free. (Luke 4:18)
- Jesus saw these men as blind that needed their sight. (Matthew 4:16)
- Jesus saw these men as sick and bruised people that needed to be made whole. (Matthew 12:20)
- Jesus saw these men as prodigal sons that needed to come to their senses. (Luke 15:11-32)
- Jesus saw these men as family members that needed to be reconciled with Him. (Luke 15:11-32)

Jesus longed for those that considered Him to be their enemy to become His brother. Instead of wrath, Jesus was filled with compassion.

Let me ask you a few questions.

- Is Jesus view of those that considered Him to be their enemy, your view of those that consider you to be their enemy?  
If you follow Jesus, the world will hate you. (Luke 6:22)
- Is Jesus view of those that hated Him, your view of those that hate you?
- Is Jesus view of those who offended Him, your view of those that offend you?

Jesus lived out the meaning of the Hebrew word for love. The Hebrew word for love means to consider others to be a brother or a friend rather than an enemy. Love was a perspective rather than an emotion. It was understood that when someone had this perspective toward others, it would produce a feeling of affection for them. Jesus said we should have this perspective and this affection for God and for those that consider us to be their enemy and for those that offend us.

Matthew 5:43-45

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'  
44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,  
45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;  
NKJV

Just condemning hatred will not change a person that hates others. The example of Jesus will not change a person that hates others. Understanding words and their meanings will not change a person that hates others. Understanding right and wrong will not change a person that hates others.

If you want to experience the unsearchable riches of Jesus you must receive Jesus!

If you are a hateful person and you want to change you must receive Jesus.

To receive Jesus means to receive both the death and the life of Jesus.

- The death of Jesus

The death of Jesus paid for your sin.

Ephesians 1:7

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace  
NKJV

The first man and the first woman rebelled against God and became sinners. Everyone of their descendants has been born into sin. You were born a rebel against God. (Romans

3:23). God is your enemy. You hate God. The ultimate way to show hate that you cannot hurt is to act like they do not exist.

You deserve the wrath of God. The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

When we enter this world, there is nothing about us that makes us anything but detestable to God. But instead of treating us like enemies, He loved His enemies. He gave His Son Jesus to die for our sin. In His death, Jesus experienced the judgment of God on our behalf.

Romans 5:6-9

6 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

NKJV

Jesus death paid for our sin.

To receive Jesus means to receive the death of Jesus for your sin. It means that you enter into an agreement with Jesus. You agree to receive Jesus and He agrees to save you from your sin.

But if you are going to stop hating other people, you must also receive the life of Jesus.

- [The life of Jesus](#)

Jesus did not come and die for mankind just so our sins can be forgiven and we could go on hating people. Jesus died and rose again to start a new race of people that are like Him.

Romans 8:29

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

NKJV

2 Corinthians 3:18

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

NKJV

Galatians 3:26-29

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.  
NKJV

Hatred and wrath does not arise from just being offended. If that was the case then we would be hateful every day.

Hatred arises from our view of our identity; our view of ourselves; our view of who we are. White supremacists consider themselves to be white and superior. They find their sense of worth in being white and superior. They find their sense of honor in being white and superior. We can find our identity in our nationality, our race, our ethnic group, the color of our skin, our family, our state, our gender, our sexual preferences, our home town, our favorite sports team, our gang, our club, our social status, our political party, our talents, etc.

If we find our identity in any one of these temporary things, we are going to be subject to hatred and wrath whenever our identity is threatened.

To receive the life of Jesus means to receive by faith a new identity in Christ.

Colossians 3:8-11

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,

11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

NKJV

It means to find your sense of worth in being in Christ. It means to find your sense of honor in being in Christ. It means to view yourself the way God views you and the way Jesus views others.

Receiving your new identity in Jesus immediately frees you from the root of all hatred and the source of all wrath. There is nothing that anyone can do or say that is a threat to who you are.

Call me white trash. Call me a bigot. Call me an idiot. Call me homophobic. Call me a hateful gay basher. Call me transphobic. Curse my family name. Call me an Okie. Call me anti-American. Call me self-righteous. Call me a bible thumper. Call me a Jesus Freak.

There is nothing you can do or say to make me hate you because there is nothing within me that is threatened. Paul said...

Romans 8:35-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written:

"For Your sake we are killed all day long;  
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NKJV

That is who Jesus was and that is who He is us if we receive His life.

Romans 5:10

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

NKJV

To receive Jesus means that you enter into an agreement with Jesus. You agree to receive Jesus and He agrees to give you His life.

Have you received the death of Jesus for your sins?

Have you received the life of Jesus for your life?

If you want to be free of hatred and wrath, you must receive Jesus, both His death and His life?