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For Your Consideration

*“Let us consider
how to stimulate
one another to love
and good deeds.”*
Hebrews 10:24

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Ron Adams
“Be thoughtful and kind.”

BIBLE RESOURCES

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LOVE AND HATE

“An unjust man is abominable to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked.”*

Proverbs 29:27

*abominable: detestable, loathsome, disgusting

When you take a stand for something, you also take a stand against all that is opposed. Taking a firm stand doesn't set well with those who differ. When you view evil and ungodliness as detestable, the opposition will find your position detestable also. The more vocal you are, the more you'll be rebuffed. Current events in today's society clearly demonstrate this fact in the outcry against any public profession of Christianity.

Stand Up for Jesus – Be Put Down by the World

LOVE JESUS – HATED BY THE WORLD

“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

John 15:18-19

SHINE YOUR LIGHT – YOUR LIGHT IS HATED

“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

“This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

John 3:19-20

BLESSED BY GOD – HATED BY THE WORLD

“Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.”

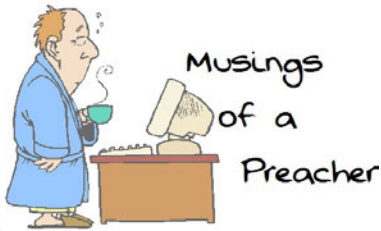
Luke 6:22

BE ADVISED

While God is glorified by our actions, worldly people are appalled by them. As light and darkness are antagonistic, godliness and unrighteousness are antagonistic. The brighter the light the stronger the hatred. Such hatred may include more than words. It can, and has, resulted in violent persecution. Pray for strength to endure.

***Better to be blessed by God and hated by the world,
than to be loved by the world and hated by God.***

SUCCINCTLY PUT Hatred reveals much about the character of the one who hates. This is true of the one who hates evil as well as the one who hates goodness.



Greater Than the Ten Commandments

In the past few years there has been much controversy over the posting of the 10 Commandments in public places. Those commandments were originally given to the Israelites by Moses years ago. Today, some are demanding their removal. It's apparent that their removal is part of an overall effort to remove anything that is remotely connected to religion, especially the Holy Bible and Christianity.

But I believe there are other commandments that are more important and need to be posted and promoted. Namely, the first and second greatest commandments. And what are they?

The Greatest Commandment

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.*

The Second Greatest Commandment

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no
other commandment greater than these.*

Mark 12:30-31

*On these two commandments depend the whole
Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 22:40

Where is the most important place that these commandments need to be posted and made clearly visible? In the heart of and mind of all. Especially in mine and yours!

THE LITMUS TEST

*If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother,
he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother
whom he has seen, cannot love God whom
he has not seen.*

1 John 4:20



PONDER THIS

Dangerous 'Wakes'

Paddling a canoe with a friend on a nearby lake, we found the water calm and easy to navigate—until a powerboat came close to us at a high rate of speed. The wake from the boat became a major problem for us. However, we were able to keep the canoe from capsizing. How inconsiderate of them to jeopardize our safety.

Afterwards I thought about how the wake of a boat is similar to the influence of others. Oh, the lessons one can learn from the similarities.

Never put yourself in a position to be harmed by the influence of others.

*Do not be deceived: "Bad company
corrupts good morals."*

1 Corinthians 15:33

Be alert so as to deflect the overpowering influence of others.

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith,
act like men, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13

We must not think that our influence will always overpower that of others.

*"Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king
in battle, will not first sit down and take counsel
whether he is strong enough with ten thousand
men to encounter the one coming against
him with twenty thousand?"*

Luke 14:31

There are those who will mistreat Christians.

*"For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience
toward God a man bears up under sorrows
when suffering unjustly."*

1 Peter 2:19

BE CAREFUL, BE BLESSED

*"Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and
persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you
falsely, on account of Me."*

Matthew 5:11.



'Why Did You Tell That?'

All relationships, and especially close ones, benefit when the "need to know" rule is observed. Not just among families, but also among friends, and especially among church members. While there may be a tendency to want to share "juicy" tidbits, keeping a trust is far more important. The amount of grief, hurt feelings, and damaged reputations that can be avoided is enormous by following this simple rule.