

# THE GOSPEL & HATE

## Ephesians 4:31-5:1

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.”

### Exposition

When someone offends you, wrongs you, or simply has an off-putting personality, how should the believer (the Christ follower) respond? Should it be with hate or love? Kindness or malice? Does it depend on the “level” of the wrong done to you? For example: should we forgive those who speak a lie about us, but not those who murder someone we love? Does the gospel show us *how* to respond? These are questions that will be answered as we break down these verses and look to others as well.

“Let *all* **bitterness** and **wrath** and **anger** and **clamor** and **slander** be **put away from you**, along with *all* **malice**...”

As beloved Children of God (those who are believers), we are given this commandment: that we put *all* bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice away from us. What are these things?

<b>Bitterness</b>	Intense hostility; to resent someone
<b>Wrath</b>	Seeking vengeance or revenge
<b>Anger</b>	Harboring strong feelings of displeasure toward someone
<b>Clamor</b>	Public outcry against someone; intense expressions of dissatisfaction
<b>Slander</b>	To speak lies against someone, especially behind their back
<b>Malice</b>	To desire harm or suffering for someone, evil intent

How the flesh responds to wrong-doing... →

Think of no one but yourself for this lesson—are there any people to whom *you* are harboring these feelings for? It could be a family member who drives you insane or who has wronged you, someone who has harmed you or your feeling—anyone. If you have these feelings towards *anyone*, take this time to repent of your sin.

## How does God respond to His children’s wrong-doing?

The world (and the sinful flesh) respond in those ways listed prior...but how did (and does) God respond to the wrong-doing of His children? Who should we take our cues from—God or the world?

<b>Kindness</b>	Considerate, helpful, humane (tenderness, compassion, sympathy)
<b>Tenderheartedness</b>	Sympathetic; looking upon with favor and love
<b>Forgiveness</b>	To pardon for <i>every</i> offense; to <i>cease</i> resentment; to reconcile that which was separated

We are told to do these things, because that is what God has done for us. Then we are told to **imitate** God—or follow his example or model—as beloved children of God.

**CAN WE BE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST AND STILL HATE?** A: NO! (1 John 2:9, 3:15, 4:20, Lev. 19:17, John 13:34-35)