

**Series (Oct. 11 - Nov. 22): *Battles from the Boardroom of the Soul* by Colin S. Smith**

Series Theme Verse: "Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and let everything in me bless His holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds!" -Psalm 103:1-2

**Sun., Nov. 1: All Saints Day, HC**

Memory Verse & Text: Romans 12:9 "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good."

Sunday Message: Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #4: "Learning How to Hate"

Sermon Scripture: Proverbs 6:16-19

Reading of Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Blurb: Christians are called to love! Yet true love necessarily means that we also hate what is ungodly. When we don't flee evil, we succumb to sin. Do you struggle with some stubborn and powerful sin? This Sunday we'll go into the boardroom of our souls and learn how we can train our board members to love God so passionately that we will cling to what is good.

**OPENING MUSIC:** *Oh God* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David  
All Saint's Day

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good." -Romans 12:9

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Questions (You Are Faithful)*

*Surrounded (Fight My Battles)*

[After the second song, the worship team will transition into Litany and begin to play "For All the Saints" in the background.]

Pastor Andrew: Will you join me in prayer?

[As prayer begins, the lights are severely dimmed.]

Pastor Andrew: Father God, this year has been a hard one. We are isolated. We are fearful. We feel the darkness. Nothing is the same. Nothing Lord, except you. And so we say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise You!**

Pastor Andrew: Lord, our country and our world have lost so many loved ones. We have not been able to say goodbye or properly mourn. But despite that we say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise You!**

Pastor Andrew: Today we remember those from our church family who have died over the course of this past year. We miss them dearly and yet have joyful confidence that they have entered into your glory. So we say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise You!**

*For All the Saints*

*Sing verse 1 of "For All the Saints"*

[After the stanza is sung, Pastor David will read slowly off a list of names while a candle is lit for each name.]

Pastor David: Today we remember [read from list]: Barb Peterson, Richard “Dick” Padrnos, Ralph “Bud” Huntosh, Jr., Gayle Novak, Laura Hickman.

*Sing verse 2 of “For All the Saints”*

[After the stanza is sung, Pastor David will continue to read names of remembrances.]

Pastor David: We remember [read from list]: Pat Prather, Gerald “Jerry” Gustafson, Roy Truax, Kae Bollinger, Ray Rought, Rachel Huntosh Waxburg.

*Sing verse 5 of “For All the Saints”*

[After the stanza is sung, Pastor David will continue to read names of remembrances.]

Pastor David: We remember [read other names recorded in the Remembrance Books . . . ].  
We also lift up to God thanks for the loved ones and those in our lives who, over this past year, have gone to the arms of Jesus. In the quiet of our own memories, we lift them up in prayers of thanksgiving.

Pastor Andrew: Let us pray together:

**People: We bless your holy name, O God,  
For all your servants who, having finished their course,  
Now rest from their labors.  
Give us grace to follow the example  
Of their steadfastness and faithfulness,  
To shine like candles in the dark,  
To your honor and glory;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Sing verse 4 of “For All the Saints”*

[Music stops.]

#### **PRAYERS AND HOLY COMMUNION -Pastor Andrew**

Pastor Andrew: Father, as we sit in your presence, in the dimness of this place, we also remember our own darkness. We remember how we have betrayed you, how we have rejected Your ways, how we have sinned before you. We come to you now in silence, confessing before You our sins.

[Silent prayer.]

Pastor Andrew: We do thank you Lord for your forgiveness. We thank you for this blest communion. We are united not only to our brothers and sisters across the globe, but also to those who have gone to glory. We remember their example and the way they lived their lives, but more so, we remember Jesus, who faithfully shepherds each of us, Jesus, who leads us all to his table. Jesus, who on the night he was betrayed, took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying, “Take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Lord we do remember You. And we say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise You!**

Pastor Andrew: Again, after supper, Jesus took the wine, gave thanks and poured it out saying, “Drink from this all of you. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it in remembrance of me.” Lord, we do remember you, and so we say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise You!**

Pastor Andrew: And now merciful God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. Let this wafer and juice we hold in our hands be for us the body and blood of Jesus, that we, in turn, may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his precious blood. You are invited to eat and drink.

[Pause as people partake.]

Pastor Andrew: Alleluia! We say together:

**People: Even in the darkness we will praise you!**

Pastor Andrew: Lord, let the dawn of your new day shine upon us all!

[Restore lights to full brightness.]

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Romans 12:9-21 (CEB) -Reader: Nathan Werner

**Romans 12:9-21 .Paul teaches us how Christians must overcome evil by hating it and doing good.**

**“9 Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. 10 Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other. 11 Don’t hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord! 12 Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you’re in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of God’s people, and welcome strangers into your home. 14 Bless people who harass you—bless and don’t curse them. 15 Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. 16 Consider everyone as equal, and don’t think that you’re better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don’t think that you’re so smart. 17 Don’t pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.**

**“18 If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. 19 Don’t try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath. It is written, ‘Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.’ [Deut. 32:35] 20 Instead, ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon his head.’ [Proverbs 25:21-22] 21 Don’t be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.”**

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** “Song for All Ages: *Love the Lord*” -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE:** Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #4: “Learning How to Hate” -Pastor David

**PP#1:** Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul: Learning How to Hate

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good.” -Romans 12:9

Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul: Learning How to Hate. Romans 12:9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Okay, today we’re going to learn how to hate. Yes, indeed! You can go off and tell all your friends that you went to church today and learned how to hate! I want to confirm that very much indeed, *Christians are haters!*

Now, before you go share that little sound bite, I need to explain what I mean. After all, these are loaded words, and we live in a very charged environment! Don’t go spouting this off recklessly.

You see, our God is a God of love. God *is* love, and calls all of us to love as He loves, and love with the love that He is. God wants there to be only love in our hearts, so that our thoughts are love and love only. We are called to love our enemies, right? We know this.

So how is it that the Bible—and God—calls us *to hate*?

Well, the Bible says that God hates. Actually, there is quite a long list of things the Bible says that God hates. God hates evildoers, wickedness, violence, robbery, wrongdoing, crookedness, pride, arrogance, cheating, injustice, sexual promiscuity, lying, murder, boasting, false truth, selfish ambition, divorce, adultery, crooked scales, taking advantage of the poor, the elderly, the vulnerable..., well, you get the idea. The list goes on and on.

So, God—who is only, and nothing but, love—hates.

I think here we need to take an honest look at what love really is. Love requires a choice *for* something or someone, and therefore, necessarily, *against* what tries to tear down or destroy the object of your love. You can't love your spouse, and also love the alcoholism that is destroying her. You can't love your best friend and also love the cancer that is killing her. Love is a passionate choice **FOR** someone, but it is also a passionate choice **AGAINST** whatever is against your beloved.

Romans 12:9 says, "Love must be sincere." What does sincere, real love mean? Paul tells us: for love to be sincere, that means we "Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good."

True love means taking sides.

**PP#2:** *Image for worldly wisdom (bumper sticker?) about NEVER hating and loving everything.*

Our world tries to apply a sound-good reasoning, that love means no hating, not taking sides. But true love, if it is really real, requires true hate: a hatred for whatever is set to tear down what you love. Love is a choice *for* AND a choice *against*.

If you notice in the lengthy list of what God hates, each and every one of what God hates seeks to destroy the people that God loves. God's passionate love for us means that God has a passionate hatred against what harms us. Healthy hatred is part of true love.

So, if we are to love as God loves—to love with the love who is God—then we must hate. We hate our sins: those things that keep us from loving God fully. We hate evil, which by very definition, is the destruction of love. We must hate, in order to love well. If we do not hate rightly, we will not grow in love, and we will not grow spiritually. We must learn the art of holy hatred.

Think of Judas, who betrayed Jesus. He was one of the 12. He loved Jesus. But, the Gospels show us that he did not hate what was evil. He stole from their community monies. He wanted to force Jesus to do things the way he thought it should go. So, although Judas loved Jesus, because he did not hate what was evil, his love collapsed. And he betrayed Jesus...ironically, with a kiss.

**PP#3:** *Again, an image for the worldly wisdom for NOT choosing sides and agreeing with everyone*

Satan, who is evil and is himself hate, lures the world not into hating—no, that is too much—but into indifference. Don't make a commitment. Don't take sides. Say everything is okay. Tell yourself you will love everything. That way, Satan gets us to gut love of its sincerity.

But it appeals to our fallen nature. Taking sides creates too many struggles! It's better to be a neutral observer of life. Don't give your heart. It will end up getting hurt. Actually, this is what Buddhism is. Buddhism says to avoid suffering by being dispassionate. Stay distant. Stay objective.

Christianity is the polar opposite. God gets personally involved. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." God's people get personally involved. Give

your heart to Jesus. Take sides. Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind. Go all in! Love your neighbor. Choose her! Take her side!

Last week Pastor Andrew taught us that we cannot serve two masters. We must take sides. So, as disciples of Jesus, to grow spiritually, we must learn the art of holy hating.

**PP#4:** *Previous slide about the boardroom of the soul with all the members arguing.*

We're using the analogy of a boardroom to understand our souls, our inner lives. The board members meet to debate the decisions of our lives, the decisions we take, and we've been taking a good, hard look at the boardroom of our souls. How do our souls tackle sin?

Imagine a businessman on the road. He checks into a motel. He's tired and needs to unwind from a long, dull day. He's by himself. He turns on his computer, and an ad pops up for a site that he knows he probably shouldn't click.

Imagination calls a meeting of the board. "Look! I'm tired. I'm lonely. I'm bored. Let's check this out. This could be interesting."

Conscience: "We shouldn't do this! This isn't good for us. We know this is wrong."

Mind: "I'm tired and I don't want another meeting here tonight. Do we really need the whole board here on this one?"

Conscience: "I think we do."

Mind: "Well, I don't. I don't want to talk about it."

Will: "Actually, I want to talk about it. I'm going in different directions. I think we should talk a lot about this. I want to hear from all the other members, all views."

Memory: "Well, I'm perplexed. I recall other times like this. I remember that it was exciting, and fun. But I also remember guilt. That was heavy. I don't know how to vote."

Heart: "I don't know how to vote, either. I don't like the pain, but I am drawn to the possibility of pleasure."

Imagination: "O, come on, let's give it a try. It can't be that bad. What harm can it do? It'll be fun!"

So, the board is stuck. One votes yes, one votes no. One is not interested. Three are waffling. But, as is usually the case, the longer that the discussion goes on, the allure of the fun usually tips the scale.

**PP#5:** *Image about the herculean power of temptation.*

It's so hard to decisively hate something that part of the soul finds—at least to some degree—attractive. And here's the struggle: there is an inherent attraction to all sin. That's why we call it *temptation*! Our standard prayer, the Lord's Prayer, has us pray, "Lead us away from temptation!" In the Garden of Eden, the serpent *tempted* Eve to eat the clearly forbidden fruit, suggesting that perhaps she could become more like God. And, as Eve thought about that, and stared at it, she reasoned that the tree looked beautiful, that the fruit looked delicious, and that it offered wisdom. And sure enough, eventually the allure tipped the scale.

**PP#6:** Whatever your temptation,

The Principle: Learn to hate what is evil

The Pattern: Where we struggle, we have not learned to hate what is evil

Now our temptations may take a variety of forms, but the 1. principle and the 2. pattern of the struggle are always the same.

1. The *principle* is that your board members must learn to hate what is evil in order to prevail over temptation. Holy hatred is the key to victory over slippery temptation.

2. The *pattern* of our struggle is that we have not learned to hate what is evil. We may be authentically sorry. But if there is a pattern of sin in our lives, there is also the lingering of loving what is ungodly in our souls.

A person committing domestic abuse may be truly sorry each time. But the struggle is that that person does not hate his anger enough to do what it takes to change. A person who commits adultery may be so sorry to truly desire that it will never happen again. But if there is not a stronger hatred for the sin of adultery than there is the pain of neglect or lack of fulfillment that person feels, he or she most likely will do it again.

Repentance requires hatred: a hatred for the sin; a hatred fueled by a love for God. We may feel grief, and very sorry, but if there is no firm defense in the soul, it becomes hard to not repeat.

Temptation is so very fierce. It appeals to our selfishness. The strong defense we need is a holy hatred for what is evil. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good."

#### **PP#7: Learning to Hate**

##### 1. Hate evil with our Minds

Romans 12:2, "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is: what is good and pleasing and mature."

Each member of the board must learn to hate the sin they once loved. Let's take a closer look at each chair.

1. We must learn to hate evil with our minds. This our postmodern world doesn't do. We affirm all things. It may be right for you. We need to experiment, try out what feels right. And, if it seems to be attractive, then it must be right. *It must be good.*

The Bible says that the world takes evil and calls it good. The serpent says to Eve, "You won't die! You'll be like God. It's actually good." And that divided mind, over time, weakens.

God offers a simple definition that rarely needs much deliberation. God says that if I say it's good, then it's good. If I say it's evil, then it's evil. The more you choose to reason it through, the more tempted you will be to call evil good.

The 10 Commandments are very clear, and blunt. God lays it right out there, black and white. God says in Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call good evil and evil good." Woe. Not good!

#### **PP#8: Proverbs 6:16-19 (CEB)**

16 There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven things detestable to him:

17 snobbish eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that spill innocent blood,

18 a heart set on wicked plans,  
feet that run quickly to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes lies,  
and one who causes conflicts among relatives.

Proverbs 6:16-21 says, “There are six things that the Lord hates, seven things detestable to Him (that’s a poetic way of saying that this is not an exhaustive list): 17 snobbish eyes, a lying tongue, hands that spill innocent blood, 18 a heart set on wicked plans, feet that run quickly to evil, 19 a false witness who breathes lies, and one who causes conflicts among relatives.”

So, Paul says in Romans 12:2, “Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.” Transformation begins in the mind.

The Holy Spirit, sitting in the seat of the board chair, asks a pointed question, “Does God, according to the Bible, love this or hate this?” James warns in 4:4 “You unfaithful people! Don’t you know that friendship with the world means hostility toward God? So whoever wants to be the world’s friend becomes God’s enemy.”

#### **PP#9: Learning to Hate**

1. Hate evil with our Minds
2. Hate evil in our Hearts

John 3:20 “All who do wicked things hate the light and don’t come to the light for fear that their actions will be exposed to the light.”

1. Learn to hate evil with our minds. 2. Learn to hate what God hates in our hearts.

Yes, this is the hardest struggle. It’s the heart of the matter, really! For there is an unhealthy love that anchors every evil in the heart. When you want to lash out and hurt that person who was so mean and condescending, what drives that is the love of selfishness in your heart. They put you down under them, so you want to punish them by putting them down below you in a painful way. It’s choosing to be *for* you and *against* them, rather than loving your neighbor and enemy.

Jesus says that evildoers hate the light (John 3:20). They love darkness and evil deeds, and want to stay there. Satan loves himself, and therefore hates God.

But notice: this also points to the biblical solution. There is a love that will ignite a hatred for evil. That is the love for Jesus! True love, true affection, chooses the object of love against that which tears it down. A love for Jesus creates in our hearts a healthy hatred for all the other unholy loves.

When your heart struggles against unholy loves, cultivate your love for Jesus. Go to the Scriptures. Go to worship. Go to Christian music. Stop and pray. Strengthen your soul! Cultivating your love for Jesus creates room for the Holy Spirit to take the chair of the board role and push out the deliberations and rationalizations of the boardroom. If you find yourself struggling with a mighty temptation that seems to have such power over you, run to Jesus! Bask in His presence, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus,” and as that song says, “Look full in His wonderful face, and the thing of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

#### **PP#10: Learning to Hate**

1. Hate evil with our Minds
2. Hate evil in our Hearts
3. Hate evil in your Will

James 1:14-15 “Everyone is tempted by their own cravings; they are lured away and enticed by them. Once those cravings conceive, they give birth to sin.”

3. Learn to hate evil in your will. Will, as we saw above, wants to draw out the discussion. Why? Because over time, temptation's strength builds and what Will and Imagination wish for starts to wear down the defenses of Conscience and Memory, eventually tilting the scale. As I, in a weakened parenting state, have sometimes conceded to my kids, "Fine, go ahead. I don't have the energy to argue with you any more!"

James, who tackles squarely our struggles with ungodly cravings in his first chapter, says in verses 14-16, "Everyone is tempted by their own cravings; they are lured away and enticed by them. Once those cravings conceive, they give birth to sin; and when sin grows up, it gives birth to death. Don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters."

Cravings eventually, as James says, "gives birth to sin." One handy rule, when it comes to hating evil in our will, is to call the question sooner. Yes, some things need to be thought through more. But when it comes to what is right and good, the early twinge of Conscience is most likely based on the clear reading of God's word. Time, most often, serves to weaken the soul's resolve.

In Proverbs 7, Solomon is observing a youth who lacked judgement. He meets a beautiful woman, and they begin to talk. He's drawn in, allured, captivated. And then, Solomon says, in verse 22, "All at once he followed her." Temptation, after time, gave birth to sin.

#### **PP#11: Learning to Hate**

1. Hate evil with our Minds
2. Hate evil in our Hearts
3. Hate evil in your Will
4. Hate evil in your Memory and Imagination

1 Corinthians 11:26 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

1. Learn to hate evil with our minds. 2. Learn to hate what God hates in our hearts. 3. Learn to hate evil in your will. And 4. Learn to hate what God hates in your memory and imagination.

Past sins hold power in memory. The pleasure and satisfaction imprint deeply. And even when we know it's not right, the satisfaction endures: "I shouldn't have said what I said, but I really did stick it to him!"

When memory recalls good about a past sin, you will most likely sin again. And imagination is far more powerful than we give it credit for.

What we must do, then, is to use memory to imagine what our sin did to Jesus. When we are tempted, we must stop and remember what sin causes. Jesus took our sins away by dying on the cross. In order to earn our forgiveness, Jesus suffered the piercings in His body and the piercings in His soul. Guide Memory to the cross. Have Imagination visualize that. Sin has a deadly consequence. When we forget that, we belittle it's consequence. Our false love that is motivating the temptation—greed, our lust, pride—drives the spear into His heart and soul. Hate your sin. Mourn your sins. And then Memory and Imagination will resist the weight of the temptation. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil.

#### **PP#12: *Image for a person turning to Jesus while grappling with temptation in prayer, perhaps visualizing a cross.***

The board adjourned for a short bit, and during that time the Holy Spirit spoke briefly with each member. But before too long, He then called them to come together again.



The Holy Spirit, now sitting in the chair's chair, speaks: "We must resolve the previous motion; we dare not put it off too long. You've had enough time to consider the issues. Let's hear your conclusions."

Heart: "I am indeed pulled in many directions. But the Chair helped me notice that one pull is stronger: I love Jesus! I cannot do what will grieve Him."

Mind: "Yes. Upon some reflection, I cannot support what God hates."

Imagination: "After I spoke with our Chair, I had a visit with Memory. He reminded me of what this sin does to Jesus. I've been picturing that. I can't enjoy what did that to Him. I no longer desire to pursue this temptation."

Conscience: "We've been discussing this long enough. I move that we refuse the suggestion, and that we note this decision as the commitment of the whole soul for future precedence for any similar times to come again. We should be able to make those decisions much more quickly."

Will: "I call the question, and all that is before us."

The motion was carried unanimously.

Amen.

**CLOSING SONG:** *From the Inside Out* -Sanctify

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Next week's message: "Trusting in the Darkness"

**OFFERING** -Pastor David

Please leave your offerings in the box as you leave.

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil. Cling to what is good." -Romans 12:9

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David

**CLOSING MUSIC** -Sanctify