

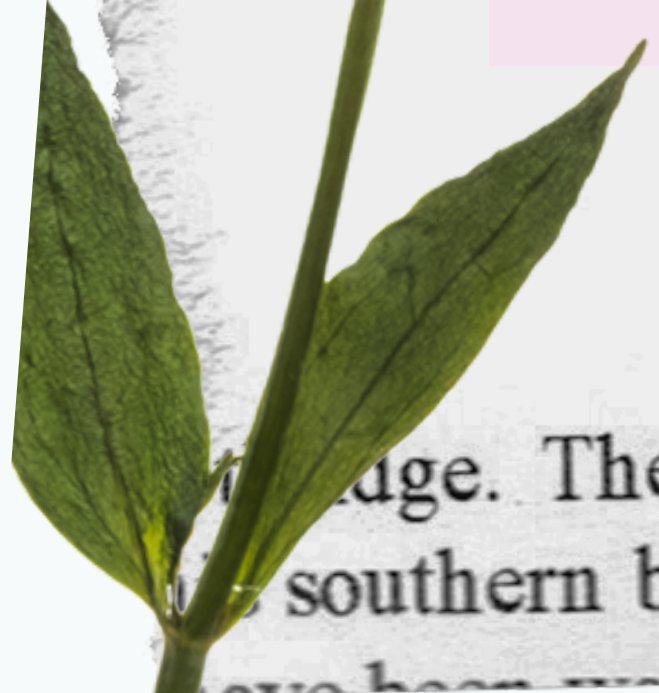
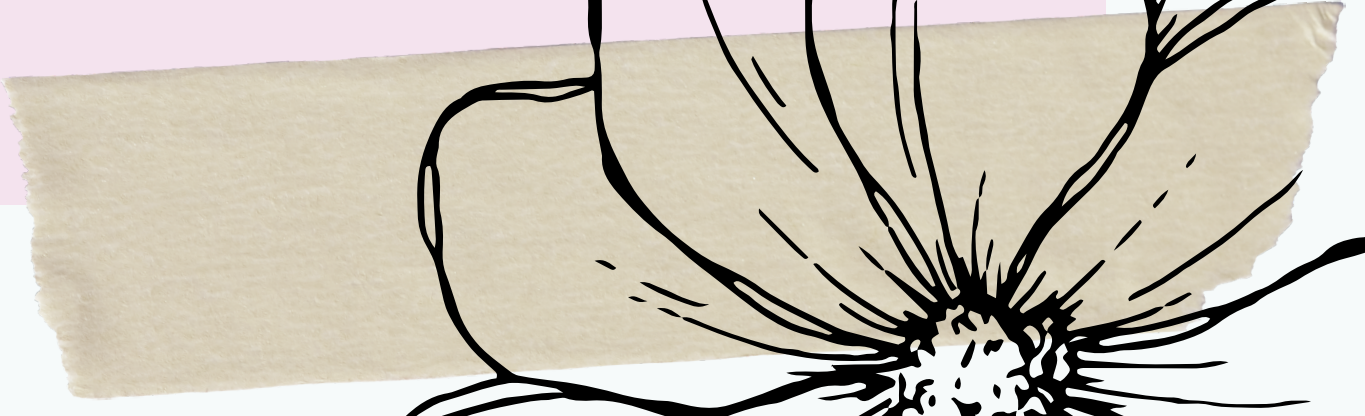


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Rev. In Kee Kim



# Scripture Passage

## Romans 6:20-23

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## 1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one



another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

NRSV



# Sermon

## Love Heals Hatred

Last Thursday was the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War. Whenever I think about the Korean war, it saddens me. People of the same race killed each other with swords, bamboo spears, axes, guns, and cannons. So many people died. Why so much hatred? What caused them to hate so much to kill each other like that? As Bob Dylan sang, "How many times must the cannonballs fly before they're forever banned?" How many people have to be beaten up and killed before they accept that there is systemic racism in this world? The war should never happen again. As Isaiah dreamed, we dream of the world where people no more practice wars. Isaiah said, ***"He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).*** We should pray for the world where people don't hate each other but love one another, working together to build a beloved community.



John said, ***“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11).*** He said, “We ought to...” It is stronger than “we must.” How precious this message is! How pertinent this message is for us now! The world is struggling to deal with the problem of hatred.

## Hatred is a Sin

Hatred is a serious problem we have to deal with. It is one of the biggest challenges we human beings face to live together. Not only do we see hatred around us, but we see hatred within ourselves. Hatred is a serious sin. St. Paul said that our sin causes death, brings about death. He said, ***“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).*** The sin of hatred kills us. After Adam and Eve took the fruit from the forbidden tree, what was the first sin that you see? It was the sin of hatred. Cain hated his brother, Abel and killed him. That was the first sin that we see. The sin of hatred brings about death. Hatred produces evil; evil produces violence; violence produces death.



## Hatred Comes From Hurt

Where does hatred come from? How does it begin? I think it begins when we are hurt. When you are hurt, the seed of hatred begins within you. When that seed grows, it becomes hatred. It is like a tumor growing to become a cancer. When there is hurt, there has to be healing but when that healing doesn't happen, that hurt becomes hatred. We should not allow our hurt to become hatred. I see that a lot in our relationships. The relationship between parents and children, among spouses, friends, and even among races. They hurt each other and when this wound is not treated properly, they become enemies and animosity and hatred are created.

I see how divided we are. Family is not like true family. We don't talk to each other. We don't show affection to each other. Community is not like loving community. Even in our society, we see racial tension. Hatred is working so hard around us. You know hatred, you can feel it. You can feel through indifference, subtle degradation, insult, discrimination, alienation, rejection, and hostility. We feel the hatred and hatred divides us. That's what sin does. It separates us from God and it separates us from each other.



When we are hurt, we need to be healed and you have the responsibility to be healed too. The hurt will not disappear automatically. I believe that it is *LOVE* that heals the hurt. The love that heals the hatred. Only love can do that.

## Jesus Came to Deal with Hatred

Why did Jesus come? Jesus came to deal with the hatred that is in the world. That was the core of Jesus' ministry. That's why Jesus said the most important message is to love one another. To love God and to love one another. He wanted to deal with the hatred that was in the world. Jesus came to tell us that love is the only way your hatred can be healed. That's why he told us to love one another. But they hated him for saying that and ultimately their hatred killed him. Hatred drove out the love. When the love came, the hatred reacted violently. Like when you pour alcohol on your wound. It reacted violently. Jesus was violently hated but he didn't give up loving us. Ultimately, his love won. Jesus' resurrection shows us that love overcame hatred. God's love overcame human hatred. God's grace ended animosity among us.

Jesus took all our hatred and crucified it on the cross.



That itself was Jesus' love. So the cross was not only the symbol of punishment but also the symbol of love. John described God's love in this way. ***"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).***

When love is poured onto our hurt, the hurt melts. That's why we need God's love. To melt our animosity, hatred and hurt. Human love is not enough and sometimes it is disappointing. But God's love is powerful enough to melt our hurt.

## God's Love Heals Our Hurt

Only God's love can heal our wound. To believe in God means to receive God's love. When we receive God's love, then we will have the ability to see and feel what others are feeling. Only when we receive that love, we can do that. Only when we are healed can we do that. We can feel other people's hurt and wound. We can see the depth of their wound. What is a psychopath? The people that cannot feel how others feel. That's why they can do tremendous damage to others. Because they have a lot of hurt and hatred within them. But when we receive God's love and we



ourselves are healed, we are able to empathize and feel other people's hurts. We can put ourselves in someone else's shoes. It is hard to do that. But God's love gives us that ability. So it is a spiritual ability. Not just a social ability. Not just a personal ability, but a spiritual ability.

Last week, I received a letter from the Rev. Jane Yoon who used to work here. She finished her studies in Boston and went back to Vancouver where her mother is. She studied counseling but she said, she realized that it is not the counseling technique that heals people but God's love. Only God's love can truly heal. Then she said how important the community is. She said, "I am thankful for St. Timothy church community. St. Timothy taught me the depth of God's word and the importance of community. It was a place where I experienced the beauty in the weaknesses. That was where I experienced healing through the Word."

Yes, she is right. The spiritual community can heal us. And that's why in the spiritual community, there has to be love. It is not easy to build a beloved community. John said today, ***"Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another" (1 John***



**4:11).**

## **We Can Heal Others Through God's Love**

When we are healed through God's love, we can also heal each other. If we have hatred that is not healed within us, that hatred will ooze out of us. You don't have to say anything. It just oozes out of you. That hatred will manifest itself. When we hate ourselves, how can we love others? We should not fuel our hatred. In God's love, our hatred should be healed. We should spiritually discipline ourselves to overcome our hatred for ourselves. We have to realize how precious we are. When that is done, then we are in a good position to love others. We will have room to embrace the hurt of others.

Let us not put down each other by ignoring their hurts. Let us listen with empathetic ears to their hurts. Let us pray for their hurt to be healed. If there is injustice, then let us bring about justice. And let us do it with love. Amongst spouses, listen to each other's hurts. With your children and with your parents, listen to their hurts. What they are feeling and what they are going through. Listen to them.



We are all sinners. But sin cannot bind us anymore; it cannot kill us anymore. Through Jesus' love, our sins are forgiven and now hatred is changed into love. Let us not be a slave of our hatred. It is very tiring to hate somebody. It consumes our energy. It takes everything from us. We will be stressed out. So don't hate. Change hatred into love and let us build together the beloved community where people come and experience and feel the love. We can do that together.