

# WHAT HINDERS OUR WAY?

Jesus has reconciled us with God by removing the enmity. We can now draw near to Him. We are instructed to lay aside anything that would interfere with that.

Jesus left it to His followers to be His representatives on earth (Matthew 28:19-20). Collectively, they make up the Body of Christ, going about and doing His works. If we have a problem with His representative, we may miss out on what God has for us, be it in the form of a blessing or even as serious as not going to heaven.

If we don't want to be like someone and they are a Christian, we may conclude that our view of God (or lack thereof) is the right way. This is dangerous, however, because many people didn't want to be like Jesus. Because of the way He was, many people stumbled when it came to accepting what God had for them (1 Peter 2:6-8). So we say, "Oh, I wouldn't ever have done that!" That's just what they said (Matthew 23:30).

Satan is our adversary, like a lion seeking whom he may devour. He tricks us by causing ill feelings towards those who are telling us about Jesus. It doesn't help that we fill our time with things that don't matter, and don't give our whole attention to what God wants.

## LIKING THE UNLIKABLE

So, what if we associate Christianity with someone we don't like? Is there a solution? Yes, there is. The Bible gives us distinct guidelines, three of which are below. If a person doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he can't do these things (Romans 8:9). It's important get rid of hindrances keeping us from God. This is done by faith operating as a new creature of God.

FOLLOW AFTER CHARITY: 1 COR.14:1

We are to take every thought captive, casting down vain imaginations that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God (2 Cor.10:5). One of those vain imaginations would be that we don't like somebody. Drop that thought and realize the truth that we have the love of God dwelling in us. He wants to love others through us.

BE FREE IN THE TRUTH: JOHN 8:32

God wants us to know the truth. But if we are resistant to it He will keep it from us. All Jesus had to do is to tell the people who didn't like Him that He was born in Bethlehem, and not Nazareth as they supposed. They wanted what they wanted, thinking they knew better. We do the same thing. We're in the dark and don't know it, even when someone testifies to the light.

BE UNSELFISH:

1 COR. 8:12-13

Let's say someone is in what we consider error by the authority of the Word of God. If how we act would hurt their conscience, by influencing them to do something *they* think is wrong, we shouldn't do it. We should regard how our actions are going to be taken by a believer in Jesus. And if we're wrong, God will show that to us through revelation (Philippians 3:15).

## STEP OUT

Does this seem too hard? By faith it is done. If we can believe for love toward someone we don't like because they tell us about Jesus, it is possible. Peter walked on the water. In this regard, we can too. Jesus washed Judas's feet. We can too. All things are possible through God.