

# You Are What You Love and Hate

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BIG SANDY, Texas—In my article on Jan. 28, I wrote a few thoughts about personal denial and how a person can recognize who he is. In that article, I shared five ways in which a person can examine himself.

At this time, I want to give each of the five concepts its own personal article. In this article, we will discuss the fourth concept—you are what you love and hate.

## **Importance of passion**

Many Bible students are aware that a concept mentioned in the Bible is also taught in the fields of psychology and philosophy.

Many authors describe a principle of success as following your "passion."

Notice how Jesus Christ described this principle in Matthew 6:21.

*Matthew 6:21*—"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

## **Spending money**

The context of the previous verse is about finances. Notice the two previous verses.

*Matthew 6:19-20*—"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust does destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

The apostle Paul gave a similar concept when he wrote to the saints in Corinth.

*2 Corinthians 9:7*—"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

## **Spending time**

The same principle applies to how people spend their time. Not only should people be cheerful givers of their money, they should also be cheerful givers of their time.

The apostle Peter mentioned this concept in regards to money and to time.

*1 Peter 5:2-3*—"Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by constraint but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

### **Negative passion**

Just as a person can define himself by his positive passions, a person can also define himself by his negative passions.

*John 10:10*—"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

*Hebrews 12:15*—"Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled."

### **Follow positive passions**

Notice some examples of following positive passion.

*Deuteronomy 14:26*—"And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household."

*Matthew 6:33*—"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

*Matthew 13:44*—"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

*Matthew 13:45-46*—"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."