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HOW CAN PEOPLE HATE LIKE THEY DO?

Several years ago, I was visiting some friends on Easter (Resurrection Day). The previous September was 9/11 which was a terrible terrorist attack on American soil. (Most of us will never forget that day.)

We had shared a lot with these friends, because they had a business in the same strip mall that we had a business in. We went out to eat often, and they became part of the "family."

As we chatted that day, my friend asked me a question. He said, "How can people hate the way they do"? As I pondered what he said, Holy Spirit gave me an illustration. I said to him "I understand just how you feel." Then I went on to share what had been dropped into my spirit.

I said, "Did you know that you have taught your children to hate"?

He said, "No, I haven't!"

I said, "Do you remember when we went to a restaurant that had fish and I told you how good it was?"

He said, "Yes."

I said, "Do you remember your kids were with us and that you told me you hated fish and that you would never eat it?"

He said, "Yes."

I said to him, "You have taught your kids to hate fish. You hate fish so your kids will grow up to hate fish."

He thought about it a moment, and said, "You're right."

Then I proceeded to tell him that this is how hate is developed. We aren't born with hatred. Babies don't see color as good or evil. Babies don't see races as good or evil. Hatred is taught. Just like hating the fish, hating people or anything else starts the same way, in the home or school. Many religions teach to hate also. Jesus never promoted hatred. He taught to love.

So, my friends, you see, that is how people can hate they way they do. It is in their upbringing. They have been taught to hate certain people, and to hate with a passion. The only thing that can change this is the love of Jesus. It can penetrate the hardest heart and bring life to it.

I shared the love with my friends after sharing with him about the hatred. They both accepted the Lord as their Savior. God pulled the hate out of his heart and replaced it with love.

Do you have a hate life? I do. I hate sin. I hate it with a passion, but I love the sinner. To love and spread love is the heart of Jesus, and that is the heart that each of us should have if we are going to change a world full of hatred.