

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

10/22/20 - Out of the Heart

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1 John 3:11-18

The FBI identifies a mass shooting as any shooting that involves four or more victims. Mass shootings represent less than one percent of all gun murder victims.*

A side issue has developed around the role of hate groups in inspiring such shootings. Several high-profile shooters have been involved in internet chat rooms providing a platform for these groups to espouse their racist and murderous ideologies.

Jesus was not confused about the source of such ideas, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts?murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person (Matthew 15:19-20a). John affirms the same message. Hate for a brother or sister is the equivalent of murder in the eyes of God.

We want to quantify or qualify such a statement: how much or what type of hatred? We seek to find some kind of loophole that will disqualify our hatred from God's clear judgment. There is none. If God's love abides in our life, there can be no room for hatred.

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