**The World Will Hate You, Pt 1**

*John 15:18-25*

**Context**

What had started out as an evening of love has now turned to a discussion on hatred. Hate is a strong word. It is used eight times in these few short passages. That hatred will turn to persecution and ultimately death. The record of the apostles in the book of Acts bears that out. Ultimately, every apostle is either killed or exiled because of *the word of God and the testimony of Jesus* (**Rev 1:9**).

Although the Jews were the first to persecute Christians, they were not the last.

**John 16:2**—*They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.*

**Acts 4:*1-4****—As they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them,* ***2****being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.****3****And they laid hands on them and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening.****4****But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

As the Gospel spreads throughout the Mediterranean world, Gentiles began to wield the sword. They hated Christians for a number of reasons. Mostly for a lack of integration with the culture and society:

* They said that Jesus was Lord and not Caesar—that brought suspicions of anarchy, disloyalty, and treason
* They refused to offer sacrifices to Caesar
* They talked of another kingdom
* They met in secret raising greater suspicion
* Christians believed in One God; they were polytheistic
* Christianity was bad for business—sales of idols were down, mediums/fortune tellers, witchcraft made a lot of money on demonic activity
* Christianity had a greater impact on the poor and lower classes. They thought there might be a slave revolt

**1 Corinthians 1:26**—*For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;****27****but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong.*

* Societal feasts were inseparably tied to idol worship. Christians refused this temple worship and isolated themselves.
* The righteous living of the Christians was a constant rebuke to the world
* Because of these reasons, the Christians isolated themselves from the system, but they affected it

3 reasons why the world hates believers

1. **It hates those who are not of it**

**John 15:18a-19**—*“If the world hates you, …* ***19****If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

1. World (*Kosmos*)—refers to the evil, fallen world system controlled by Satan

**John 12:31***—Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

**John 14:30***—I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me*

**John 16:11***—and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

**1 John 5:19***—**We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.*

**Ephesians 2:1-2***—And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,****2****in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

1. Since the ruler of this world hates Christians, it’s no surprise that the world hates us

**Proverbs 29:27b**—…*And he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked.*

1. The world loves those who practice evil

**Romans 1:32**—*and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.*

1. We live in the world, but we are not of the world

**1 Corinthians 5:9-10***—I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;****10****I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.*

**Philippians 2:15***—so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world*

***Ephesians 5:11****—Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them*

1. If you were of the world (and you are not)…the world would love you
   * 1. Love (*phileo*)—natural affection and passion, and not [*agapao*], the high, intelligent, purposeful love of an ethical state[[1]](#footnote-1)
     2. Christians love each other because “we’re all we got”

**Acts 2:44-46**—*And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;****45****and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.****46****Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart*

**Galatians 6:10***—So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.*

1. He chose them out of the world (Literally, I chose them for Myself)

**Acts 26:18***—**to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’*

**Colossians 1:13***—For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*

**2 Timothy 2:25-26***—with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,****26****and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

**Hebrews 2:14-15***—Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,****15****and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.*

1. **It hated Christ first**

**John 15:18b, 20***—…you know that it has hated Me before it hated you….* ***20****Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also*

1. If they hate Christ, they will hate us

**John 7:7**—*The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.*

**John 17:14***—I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.*

**Hebrews 12:3**—*For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

1. We cannot expect better treatment than our Lord  
   * 1. He is the example of service—He just earlier washed their feet

**Matthew 10:24-25**—*A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master.****25****It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household!*

* + 1. He will likewise be an example of suffering

**1 Peter 2:21**—*For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps*

**Philippians 3:10**—*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death*

**2 Corinthians 1:5**—*For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.*

**Galatians 6:17**—*From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus.*

1. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also  
   * 1. Jesus said there would be few that believe

**Matthew 7:14**—*For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

**Luke 13:24***—**“Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

* + 1. The joy of seeing the few far outweighs the sorrow caused by the hatred and hostility of the many

1. **It hates because it doesn’t know God**

**John 15:21-25**—*But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.****22****If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.****23****He who hates Me hates My Father also.****24****If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.****25****But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’*

* + 1. Persecution that comes to Christians is ultimately aimed at Him

***Matthew 5:11****—Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.*

**Matthew 24:9***—Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.*

**Acts 9:16***—for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”*

**1 Peter 4:14***—If you are reviled [*[*j*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+pet+4&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30461j)*]for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

* + 1. They ultimately hate Jesus and Christians because they do not know God—the One Whom God sent, vv**21, 23**

**Romans 8:7-8***—because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,****8****and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

**Colossians 1:21***—And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,*

**Ephesians 4:18***—being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;****19****and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*

**Romans 1:18, 21***—For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness…* ***21****For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

* + 1. Those who hear and saw Jesus bear a great responsibility for rejecting the truth**,** v**22**
       1. People will bear the full weight of willfully rejecting Him in the face of full revelation

**Matthew 7:28-29**—*When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching;****29****for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

**John 7:46**—*The officers answered, “Never has a man spoken the way this man speaks.”*

**Matthew 12:31-32**—*Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.****32****Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.*

* + - 1. Those who reject Christ do not know God. Period.

**John 8:44***—You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

* + - 1. The one who hates Him, hates the Father also.

**John 5:23***—so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*

**John 7:28***—Then Jesus cried out in the temple, teaching and saying, “You both know Me and know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, whom you do not know.*

**John 8:19***—So they were saying to Him, “Where is Your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither Me nor My Father; if you knew Me, you would know My Father also.”*

**John 8:42***—Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.*

**John 17:25***—“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me*

* + - 1. This was done to fulfill Scripture

**Psalm 35:19***—Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously.*

**Psalm 69:4***—Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; Those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies; What I did not steal, I then have to restore.*

**Matthew 5:10-12**—“*Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.* ***11****“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.****12****Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**Conclusion**

We will experience opposition for our stand with Christ. However, we who have been delivered from sin by the person and work of Christ on our behalf, speak boldly and powerfully the hope found in the Savior knowing that we will for all of eternity experience the supreme joy of being associated with Him. Is your witness and testimony bold and strong?

1. R. C. H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of St. John’s Gospel*, 1055. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)