

The World Hates You

Have you ever considered yourself a people pleaser type of person? Did you know that if you're a Christian, you will never be able to please everyone. Either, you will please the world or you will please God, but you cannot do both.

IF YOU LIVE FOR JESUS, THE WORLD WILL BE AGAINST YOU.

Now you might hear that and wonder, how so? In what way will the world be against someone who is living for Jesus?

In this text, I see Jesus describing 3 realities for a believer who is living for Jesus and bearing fruit for His glory.

Reality #1 - A fruit bearing Christian will be hated by the world. **15:18-19**

The world is a loving world only to those who are a part of the world. It hates those who are not of this world. The world is characterized by its hatred of God and its hatred of the people of God.

Why are Christians hated by the world? Jesus gives 3 reasons.

(Reason #1) Christians are hated because the world hates Jesus. 15:18

The rebellious world system and the self-righteous religious system hated Him and still does. Jesus Christ is probably the most hated name in all of world history. He is loved by many, but He is hated by more.

(Reason #2) Christians are hated because we are not of this world. 15:19

We disagree with this world. We agree with God that men are evil. We are evil. We agree with God that lust is evil, fornication is evil, homosexuality is evil, a lying tongue is evil, greed is evil, pride is evil, envy is evil, strife is evil, an outburst of anger is evil, prioritizing something other than God is evil, even religion apart from pure faith in Jesus is evil. But, the world disagrees with God and disagrees with us. The world would call us evil for thinking such things.

(Reason #3) Christians are hated because we still live in this world. 15:19; 17:15

A Christian is one who represents Christ. Our morals, our philosophy, our world-view, and our choices reflect Jesus, but the world is trying to make Jesus disappear.

Reality #2 - The fruit bearing Christian will be persecuted by the world. **15:20-25**

Why would the world reject Jesus? Verses 21 through 25 provide 3 answers.

(Answer #1) - The world does not know God the Father. 15:21

They don't know the Father who sent the Son. Romans 1:19-20 says that every person has an awareness of God. Everyone knows deep down that there is a God, but there is a big difference from knowing that there is a God and knowing God personally. The Jews killed Jesus thinking they were serving God. Many Christians have been killed by people who are supposedly serving God. The problem is, these people do not know God. John has made it clear in this gospel, the only way a person can actually know God is to accept, receive, and believe in Jesus. If you reject Jesus and reject those who belong to Jesus, then you don't know God.

(Answer #2) Jesus exposes the world's sin. 15:22-24

Jesus' words and Jesus' works exposed sin in the hearts of people. Jesus' words cut into the soul and reveal sin. The words of Jesus convince a person that he is not qualified for heaven. He is a sinner, but worldly people don't want to be called sinners. They don't want to admit they're sinners. That is why Jesus said in John 3:20, "For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed."

(Answer #3) - The world's hatred against Jesus fulfills Scripture. 15:25

Verse 25 is a quotation from both Psalm 69:4 and Psalm 35:19. God will never be proven a liar. God declared centuries before through King David that the Messiah would be hated for no good reason.

What did Jesus ever do to them? Really? Here's what He did. He told them the truth. He told them they were sinners. Then He paid the penalty for their sin. He offered them complete and free forgiveness of all sin by simple faith in Him. They had no good reason to hate Him. They hated Him without a cause.

What did Jesus ever do to you?

Reality #3 - In the midst of the hatred and persecution, the fruit bearing Christian will have the help of the Holy Spirit. **15:26-27**

When Jesus was on this earth, His very presence convicted people of sin, but He is not physically here like He was back then. So, how is the world going to be convicted of sin? Is it our job to convict people of sin? No. The Spirit will convict for us (16:8).

It's not our job to save people. That is the work of God. But you know what? From verse 26, what do you suppose the Spirit of God desires to do most in this world? To witness for Christ.

Where does the Spirit reside on this earth today? In the hearts and lives of believers (14:17). Do you think maybe that is the reason why Jesus told the disciples, "and you will bear witness?" Believers have God the Holy Spirit in us, and His number one job is to make much of Christ.

IF YOU LIVE FOR JESUS, THE WORLD WILL BE AGAINST YOU.

You will be hated. You will be persecuted, but in the midst of it all, you will have a Helper so that you can stand boldly as a witness for Jesus.