

Dealing with the World's Hatred

John 15:18-27

June 25, 2023

This paragraph transitions from the disciples loving relationship to Jesus (13:31-15:17) to the world's hateful relationship to the disciples (15:18-16:33).

1. The Source of the World's Hatred (18-21)

- a. The world's hatred is directed at Christ (18).
 - i. The hatred that disciples experience from the world is actually directed at Christ.
 - ii. The world has hated God long before we came on the scene.
 1. Luke 19:14 "...we will not have this man to reign over us."
 2. 1 John 3:13 "Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."
- b. The world hates the disciples of Christ because we are now foreigners (19).
 - i. Disciples of Christ are now outsiders, strangers, and pilgrims in this world (Hebrews 11:13).
 - ii. Disciples of Christ are now citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
 - iii. Disciples of Christ are despised because they bear the light of Christ in a dark world (John 3:19-20).
- c. The world hates the disciples of Christ because we are so closely identified with Christ (20).
 - i. As the servants of Christ, we are not greater than our Master.
 - ii. If the world persecuted Jesus, then disciples can expect the world to persecute us.
 1. 2 Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
 - iii. If some received Christ's word, then disciples can expect some to receive our declaration of the Word.
- d. The world will persecute disciples of Christ for two main reasons (21).
 - i. The world will persecute us because they hate Christ.
 - ii. The world will persecute us because they hate God.
 1. 1 John 2:23 "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also."
 2. God cannot be known outside of a relationship with Jesus; those who reject the Son of God reject God the Father.

2. The Judgment against the World (22-25)

- a. The coming of Jesus was the ultimate exposure of man's sinfulness (22).
 - i. The Law of Moses was given to expose our need.
 1. Romans 5:13 "For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law."
 2. Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ that we might be justified by faith."
 - ii. The Law of Christ is the ultimate standard which completely exposed man's need for a Savior.
 1. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus exposed the need of man's heart (Matthew 5).
 2. Jesus taught that mankind was not awaiting judgment but was already condemned before God (John 3:18).
 3. Man's condition is so hopeless that our only hope is Jesus (John 3:16); there is no remedy for the poison of sin other than Jesus.
 4. Now that Jesus has come, mankind is without excuse if they refuse to believe on Him.
- b. Those who hate Jesus hate the Father (23).
 - i. The world shows this hatred by attacking Jesus.
 - ii. The world also shows this hatred by simply diminishing Jesus by choosing some other object of belief.
 1. Luke 14:6 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."
 - iii. Those who reject Jesus, or simply choose another object of faith, reject God the Father (cf. 14:6).
- c. Those who reject the works that Jesus has done have rejected Him and God the Father (24).
 - i. Those who believe that Jesus was a great teacher, but they deny His miracles have rejected Jesus and His Father.
 - ii. Jesus' works proved His identity as the Son of God and Savior of the world (turning water into wine; healing of the nobleman's son; healing of the lame man; walking on water; feeding the 5,000; healing the man born blind; raising Lazarus from the dead; raising from the dead on the 3rd day).
 - iii. Those who deny the works of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus have rejected Jesus and His Father.
- d. Jesus is both the perfect recipient of persecution and the perfect Deliverer from persecution (25; Psalm 35:19; 69:4)
 - i. Jesus has faced the very worst of persecution and triumphed over it.

- ii. Jesus can empower you to face the very worst of persecution and triumph over it.
- 3. The Witness to the World (26-27)
 - a. Disciples of Jesus will not face the hatred of the world alone; they will face it in the presence and power of the Spirit (26).
 - i. Jesus has sent the Comforter from the Father to be your guide and enable in persecution.
 - ii. The Comforter is the Spirit of Truth Who witnesses to the world through disciples of Jesus.
 - b. Disciples of Jesus will testify to the world as Spirit-filled prophets and ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20).
 - i. Disciples of Jesus are continuing the ministry of Jesus.
 - ii. We continue the ministry of Jesus not just with Him, but in Him, and He in us.

Conclusion:

1. How are you responding to the world's hatred? Are you surprised? Are you taking it personally? Are you being intimidated?
2. Are you trying to get to God some other way than Jesus?
3. As a disciple of Christ, is persecution driving you closer to Christ, or is it driving you away from Him?
4. As a disciple of Christ, are you taking every opportunity to embrace your identity as a Spirit-filled messenger of the gospel?