

Why Does the World Hate Us?

Read: John 15:18-25

Main idea: Jesus warns His disciples that the world will hate His church and lash out against those who follow Him and attempt to live for Him.

Key Verses: “If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (15:19 ESV)

Key Principles:

- The church will be recognizable by their love for one another, their obedience to Jesus, their experience of joy, and their persecution from the world.
- The world will hate and persecute the church because it first hated Jesus.
- Jesus called His church out of the ranks of a rebellious world in order to become part of His family.
- You cannot follow a crucified Savior and not expect to bear a cross yourself.
- We should not be shocked that nonbelievers do not act like followers of Christ because they have not been redeemed and are not filled with His Spirit.
- The world hates Jesus because He entered their world that was darkened by sin and shone an undeniable light that exposed their sin and the ugliness of their hearts.

Discussion:

1. How does Jesus say the world will feel towards His disciples? Why is it important for us to understand this reality?
2. How might fear of the world cause one to fall away from Jesus? What about the temptation to conform to the world?
3. Why is attempting to fit in with the world in opposition to God’s plan for His church? What does it mean that we have been “called out” by Jesus?
4. Why do you think Jesus was so hated?
5. Read Psalm 2 together. What does this tell us about God’s sovereignty and omniscience?
6. How does knowing that God and His Son will be victorious against any people or nations that rise up against Him help you to live for Him? How does it affect your passion for evangelism?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would remain faithful to our Savior even when the world persecutes us.
- Pray:
 - That we remember that we have been called out of the world to live holy lives.
 - That we would love one another and encourage one another in a hostile world.
 - That we have a passion to shine as a light in darkness to our unsaved neighbors.

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- I. **The world hates our God.** **15:18-20**
 - 1. You are not of this world. 15:18-19
 - 2. You are called to the Savior. 15:20

- II. **The world is estranged from our God.** **15:21**
 - 1. Don't be surprised by their behavior.
 - 2. Don't be surprised by their beliefs.

- III. **The world is guilty before our God.** **15:22-25**
 - 1. Jesus exposed their sin. 15:22-24
 - 2. Jesus revealed their heart. 15:25

NEXT WEEK:

You Are Not Alone

John 15:26-16:15