

What Christians Face John 15:17-27

INTRO: One of the storms that the children of God are going to face from now until Jesus comes for us is hatred by the world. Just because you are a Christian, there will be those who hate you. There are people who have never and will never meet you; yet, they hate you because you are Christian. The children of God are loved by the Savior and hated by the world. John's Gospel is filled with contrasts: belief and unbelief; light and darkness; life and death; love and hatred.

I. Vs 17, THE NEED TO LOVE AND BE LOVED

- A. Christians need to love one another because the world certainly is not going to love believers.
- B. In John 15:12-17, the emphasis is on love, the Lord's love for us and our love for Him and for one another (vss 12, 17).
 - 1. The Lord knows that we need to love Him and love one another because of the hatred of the world for the Lord and His own.
 - 2. Children of God, we need the Lord, but we also need one another. We cannot go it alone and be healthy Christians.

II. VSS 18-22, THE HATRED OF THE WORLD FOR CHRISTIANS

- A. Vs 18, The world is controlled by Satan, opposed to God, to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to the children of God. This wicked world could not tolerate Jesus, and it cannot tolerate His followers.
 - 1. The world hated Jesus because He was different from other men. Jesus was different:
 - a. He was sinless; He made no mistakes; He never, ever failed.
 - b. He spoke the truth in love without fear or favor.
 - c. He refused to compromise on moral issues.
 - d. He would not tolerate doctrinal error. Most people today have no idea what real doctrine is.
 - e. He exposed corruption and decay within the establishment.
 - f. He cleaned house when it was needed. (Example: the cleansing of the temple).
 - 2. The world hated Jesus, and it is going to hate true believers. The word for hate used here is the Greek word *miseo* meaning, "to hate, be hateful, detest, pursue with hatred."

The world is after those who stand up for God. The world will hate you if:

- a. You live for God: “Be ye holy....”
- b. You tell the truth as stated in the Bible.
- c. You refuse to compromise on moral issues, adultery, fornication, abortion, sodomy, etc.
- d. You will not compromise doctrinally: baptism, the Lord’s Supper, church truth, the blood, the book, and the blessed hope.

3. If you are hated for your righteous stand, you are in good company. They hated Jesus long before they hated you.

B. Vs 19, “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own....” Many so called Christians have no problem with the world because they look, act, and smell like the world.

1. Christians are not of the world. That’s what Jesus said.
 - a. We are in the world, but not of the world.
 - b. Our citizenship is in another country, heaven! We are pilgrims and strangers here (I Pet 2:11 “This world is not my home.”)
2. Christians have been chosen out of the world.
 - a. “Chosen” is the Greek word *eklegomai*: meaning, “to chose out, to pick out, to choose to one’s self.”
 - b. Christians have been chosen, picked out, separated from the wicked of the world (II Thes 2:13; Eph 1:4).
3. The world hates the chosen, the called out, because they are different.
 - a. They don’t go where the world goes (I Pet 4:4).
 - b. They don’t think as the world does.

C. Vs 20, the world hates Jesus, and it hates His followers.

1. The world persecuted Jesus, and it will persecute you if you live godly (II Tim 3:12).
 - a. The health and wealth crowd stays away from texts like this.
 - b. Christians today do not want to suffer; they want to fit in with the world in music, dress, and activities.
2. “If they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” The sayings of Jesus condemns the world. If we preach the words of Jesus, it will bring conviction. If they receive His words, they are receiving and keeping the words of Jesus we preach. They hate the Word; they call evil goo and good

evil (Isa 5:20).

- D. Vs 21, Jesus tells this little band of believers, this early church, to prepare for what is coming.
 - 1. The world hates Christians because they do not know God.
 - 2. If they had known God, they would have known Jesus the Son, the one sent by the Father (3:17, 34; 5:36-37).
- E. Vs 22, If Jesus had not come and spoken the truth, they would not have been guilty of rejecting the Savior.
 - 1. The world stands guilty of turning its back on Jesus.
 - 2. Sinner friend, you are guilty having heard the Gospel and having rejected it.
 - 3. Those who have heard the Gospel and reject it have no covering. They have no excuse; they stand guilty before God.

III. VSS 23-25, THE WORLD'S HATRED OF GOD

- A. Vs 23, The Jews thought they could claim God as their Father (8:41) while rejecting Jesus the Son, calling Him demon possessed (8:48).
 - 1. There are those today who claim to love God while rejecting the blood atonement.
 - 2. Jesus is the only way to God (14:6).
- B. Vs 24, Jesus had given witness of His deity by His words and by His works "which none other man did."
 - 1. The marvelous works of Jesus they had witnessed:
 - a. He walked on the sea.
 - b. He turned water into wine.
 - c. He took five loaves and two fishes and fed five thousand.
 - d. He cleansed the leper.
 - e. He gave sight to the blind.
 - f. He raised Lazarus from the grave.
 - 2. Not only were the Jews of Jesus day guilty of rejecting the truth. Sinner friend, you are guilty of rejecting the Gospel!
- C. Vs 25, Jesus, the sinless Son of God, was hated without a cause. He never harmed anyone; He was holy, just, and good; yet hated.
 - 1. This verse is a quote from Psalm 35:19 and Psalm 69:4.
 - 2. The Old Testament scriptures condemned the Jews for what they did. The Old and New Testament scriptures condemn the sinner today. You are responsible before God.

IV. VSS 26-27, THE TRUE CHRISTIAN WILL BE A WITNESS

- A. Vs 26, Jesus told His disciples that He was sending the Holy Spirit to testify of Him.
 - 1. In the midst of a wicked world, the Holy Ghost will testify (16:8-9) and condemn.
 - 2. In the midst of mankind, He will bear witness of man's need of salvation.
 - 3. In the midst of the church, He will comfort the body.
 - 4. The number one job of the Holy Spirit is to exalt the Son of God.
- B. Vs 27, The church had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry.
 - 1. They would received power to evangelize (Acts 1:8).
 - 2. To be witnesses, we must follow the plan laid out in John 15.
 - a. "Abide"-- John 15:4 "Abide in me."
 - b. "Love"-- John 15:12 "Love one another."
 - c. "Testify"-- John 15:27 "Ye shall also bear witness."
 - 3. The world will hate us, but we must demonstrate God's love for them in countenance, attitude, dress, and compassion.

CONCLUSION: There will be those who will be openly hostile to our witness; yet, there will be some who will be drawn and brought from darkness to light (5:24).

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