

Being Hated For the Testimony (John 15:18-27)

- I. The World will Always Hate the Church (18, 20)
 - A. The World Seeks to Victimize the Church (18, 20)
 1. The World is the secular world system
 - a. It's not just the geographical earth
 - b. It is the individualistic secular worldview that pervades the culture of mankind
 2. The World will always Hate Christians (18)
 - a. Jesus shines light in the darkness of men's lives
 - b. Men desire to stay in their darkness
 - c. They don't want to be told they are wrong or sinful
 - d. They will hate anyone whose life convicts their actions
 3. The World hates Christians because it Hates Jesus
 - a. Jesus brought light to the sin and religion of his day
 - b. Jesus showed them truth and it convicted them
 - c. Rather than conform to Jesus' teaching, they sought to be rid of him
 - d. Jesus working in believers engenders the same response today.
 4. The World will persecute Christians Because of Jesus (20)
 - a. Not only will they simply hate but they will attempt to be rid of truth
 - b. We see this in physical persecution
 - c. We see this in ridicule
 - d. We see this in the world's attempt to silence the voice of Christianity
 - i. The secular world calls biblical truth – hatred
 - ii. The secular world calls believers – intolerant and unloving
 - iii. Believers will rarely be openly persecuted because “they love Jesus”
 - iv. Most often believers are persecuted for being something they are not
 - v. In the early church, Christians were persecuted for being “atheists” and cannibalism
 - Athiest because they refused to believe in any god other than the true God
 - Cannibals because of a misconception about the Lord's supper – eating his flesh, drinking his blood, etc.
 - B. Why the World Seeks To Victimize the Church (19, 20-21)
 1. Why the World Hates You (19)
 - a. The World loves its own
 - i. It hates you because you are not of the world

- ii. The world loves those who conform to its practices
 - iii. Even if you profess Christ, if you conform to the world's principles it will love you
 - iv. We cannot conform, we are transformed by the renewing of our minds
 - b. The World hates those Christ has taken from the World
 - i. We are no longer of the world, but we live in the world
 - ii. We have been removed from slavery to sin
 - iii. Our lives remind the world of its slavery and therefore, they hate us
 - iv. The practices of the world hurt their consciences so they want to be rid of anyone who reminds them their deeds are evil
 - c. The World hate you because they don't know God (21)
 - i. They persecute and malign because of Jesus in us
 - ii. They refuse to know the God who sent Christ
 - iii. They will not have anyone rule over them
 - iv. They will not be corrected for their sin
- II. The World Cannot Stop the Testimony of Christ (22-27)
 - A. Jesus' Rejection is a Revelation of God's plan (22-25)
 - 1. Jesus came to reveal man's sin (22-23)
 - a. If Jesus had not come, they could have gone about their lives thinking they were righteous and OK
 - b. But Jesus has come telling them the truth about their righteousness and this brings conviction
 - c. They would have rather never known so at least they think they would have had an excuse
 - 2. Jesus' Person has been rejected (24)
 - a. Jesus proved his words by the works he did
 - b. If he had not come they may have thought they had an excuse – but now they don't
 - c. They have seen Jesus and his works with their own eyes
 - d. They have hated Jesus and His Father as well
 - e. They have no excuse
 - 3. Jesus' Rejection was Foretold (25)
 - a. Jesus rejection is not a surprise to God
 - b. Jesus rejection will lead to the cross which will save all mankind
 - c. Even in the worst circumstances, God's plan is working for the good of those that love Him.
 - B. The Testimony of Jesus will Always Go Forth (26-27)
 - 1. The Spirit will continue to Testify about Jesus (26)
 - a. Jesus will send the comforter from the Father

- i. Notice the Trinity language. The Spirit comes from the Father but it is Jesus who sends him. Earlier he said the Father would send Him.
 - b. The Spirit will testify about Jesus
 - i. Even after Christ is gone from the earth, his truth will continue to be told and understood
 - ii. Notice that the Spirit's job is to testify to Christ
 - iii. He makes Christ known to people as He draws them and convicts them of sin
- 2. The Disciples will Testify about Jesus (27)
 - a. Jesus' followers will continue the great commission
 - b. They will testify about what Jesus did for man
 - c. We continue to testify about Jesus to the world which hates us