

**God With Us**

## A Study of John's Gospel: "Hatred of the World"

John 15:18-27; 16:1-4

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"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you." – John 15:18

**I. The World Loves to Hate (vv.18-20)**

- a. The reason Jesus commanded us to love is because the world will naturally hate.
- b. Why do people hate?
- c. There should be a clear contrast between a disciple and the lost world. The clear determiner is love.
- d. Christians *do not belong to the world*, therefore, they are not recipients of the world's love, for the world loves only its own.
- e. True disciples are to be known by their love in a world that hates. Are you known by your love?

**II. Why Does the World Hate Christ and His Disciples? (vv.19-24)**

- a. **New nature** (v. 19). Christ died for the world and the Father still loves it, but it remains in a state of spiritual rebellion against Him. *We have been chosen out of the world.* (1 John 2:15-17)
  1. We are from a different place and are going to a different place and so we are *hated* rather than loved. (Philippians 3:20-21)
- b. **Our relationship with Jesus** (v. 20) As disciples we share His life and mission. We will have *some* positive response to our Gospel proclamation, but in general the results will be no different.
  1. Jesus indicated the opposition comes not because people do not recognize Christ in us, but *because* they do. The world still rejects Jesus (*send Him away, we do not want Him here*).
- c. **We expose evil** (v.22-24) Jesus came as the light of the world and exposed shameful deeds of darkness by His *words* and His *works*.
  1. If we are living consistent lives our *works* and *words* will regularly contradict the lifestyles of those around us; by our attitudes to work, personal ethical standards, by our lifegoals and values.
- d. If we experience persecution, however slight, we are assured of Christ's presence. If we suffer while fulfilling His mission, we suffer with Him.
- e. Jesus embraced being hated for the sake of love.

**III. Application of the Word**

- a. What do you think about this statement, "American religiosity is shallow and selfish. It promises so much and demands so little. It offers success, personal happiness, peace of mind, and material prosperity; but it hardly speaks of repentance, sacrifice, self-denial, holy lifestyle and willingness to die for Christ?"
- b. Read 1 Peter 2:21 and Revelation 13:10
- c. Every Christian needs to face the question seriously, *Am I ready to die for Christ?* It is not a theoretical question: Following Jesus is not a game.
- d. Believing, Christianity, Discipleship are not things that we *sometimes do*, it is who we *are*. We live who we are!