

John 15:18-25

I. The world's hatred

A. V.18 – why did Jesus move from love to hate?

1) *This is the true test of love: loving those who hate you* – Matt. 5:43-48; 1 Pet. 2:21-24; 3:8-9.

a) **Hate** mentioned 8x's in v.18-25 (Gr.) = malicious & unjustifiable feelings towards others:

i) V.25 – “*They hated Me without a cause*” = freely; of their own choice.

ii) *They had malicious & unjustifiable feelings about Jesus of their own free will.*

2) *Jesus was/is prepping us for what's to come: **the world is going to hate you*** – Matt. 5:11-12; 10:22-39.

a) If the world hated Jesus & said He was demon possessed, what are the chances the world will hate His followers– v.20?

i) V.20 – persecute (Gr.) = to drive away; to **pursue** with hostility – Matt. 8:28-9:1; 22:15, 23, 34; John 8:2-3

ii) ***We may truly despise conflict, but if we choose to follow Jesus that's exactly what we can expect*** – 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 John 3:13.

iii) ***“We have pledged ourselves to the One Whom the world rejects.”*** – H.A. Ironside

b) It is in these times of hatred we are tempted to disregard God's word, deny His name & cling to our life on earth more than the one to come – Matt. 10:22-39.

II. The cause of the world's hatred

A. V.19 – we're not like them – 2 Cor. 6:17; James 4:4

1) **One of the biggest issues many Christians have in being a Christian is that it separates them from everyone else; i.e. we don't like to stand out.**

a) The great danger of this is we become passive Christians who hide the Gospel in the name of preserving unity & peace – 2 Cor. 4:3.

b) *Jesus was & continues to be the most controversial figure in all of history (Mark 6:3; John 7:12, 43; 17:14), mainly b/c He was unlike everyone else! Jesus didn't "get along" because He wouldn't "go along".*

2) As genuine Christ followers, our opinions & worldviews are formed by God's holy standards of righteousness; not by the world's sinful standards of what is acceptable – **Rom. 12:1-2**; John 8:24, 45; 17:14.

3) This not only *separates* us from the world, but will *continuously* put us in *conflict* with the world – Tim Tebow example.

B. V.20 – God's word: truth *always* divides – Matt. 10:34-39; 13:57; **Luke 12:51**; Heb. 4:12; John 8:13-24, 31-47.

1) *The world always has & always will despise God's truth because it runs contrary to how they want to live & think, which is when truth cuts the deepest & hurts the most* – Gal. 4:16; John 8:45.

C. V.21 – Jesus' name

1) *Why would anyone hate another simply because of the name they carry? Why do people hate the name of Jesus & those who carry it?* We identify with Him.

a) The name of Jesus carries **conviction** – v.22; John 16:7-11; 3:17-20.

b) The name of Jesus carries **correction** – v.22; Job 5:17-18; Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:5-11; John 3:17-20.

- c) The name of Jesus carries **clarity** = no wiggle room – v.22, 24; John 14:6; Acts 4:12...what our world today labels as arrogant, dogmatic, narrow-minded, *intolerant* – **Prov. 6:16-23; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:22-27.**