

Upper Room – Part 9

The World will Hate You

John 15:18-27

The Christian will find disunity and hatred from the world because of their union with Christ and each other. The repetition of the commandment to love one another (v. 17) is based on the fact that we will be hated by the world; we need each other! In this passage, Christ will further explain this hatred and the comfort found in the person of the Holy Spirit.

I. The World's Hatred of the Christian - Why does this happen

Jesus makes it plain that their situation within the world is very serious and even dangerous.

1. The Christian is hated by the world because it does not belong to the world.

“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.” John 15:18-19

*The attack will now move from the Shepherd to the sheep, but remember we are in good company!
As we are in enemy territory, let us not expect the treatment of friends!*

Matt. 5:11-12

“the world” – There are three uses of the word “world” in Scripture:

1. The created world – John 1:10
2. Humanity – John 3:16
3. Society apart and opposed to God – John 15:18 **This is the world's system, like someone might say the “world of sports”. It is all the people, plans, organizations, activities, philosophies, values, etc. It is a society without God, it entails the hearts and minds of sinful man – we are told not to love the world (I John 2:15-17) or to conform to the world (Rom. 12:1-2). Satan is the one who dominates this evil world in rebellion against God. Therefore the world will hate the believer. (2 Tim. 3:10-13; Gal. 4:29)**

This is not new factual information from the lips of Christ, He had taught this before. (Matt. 10:16-22; Luke 10:3) And He will remind them again. (John 17:14) A Christian has moved from “in the world” to “in Christ”! We are not “of the world” spiritually, our focus and philosophy of life is so contrary to the world's desires of pleasure and self-advancement. We are not conformed or inline with the “herd”. As Christians we do not fit in or get along anymore! Instead, we are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17), no more old life (1 Peter 4:1-4) Warren Wiersbe said, “The believer is not just “out of step”, he is “out of place.” (WW p. 288) John 17:14-16; I John 4:4-6

“hate” – As the hatred grows it becomes more severe. 1. Hatred begins with disassociation v. 18-19
2. Persecution – v. 20 3. Excommunication and Death - John 16:2 This treatment of Christians is a part of history past and the present day across the world. Soon these men and the early Christians will be treated as outlaws being kicked out of the synagogues, temple, removed from the economy, and run off from their homes!

“the world would love his own” – the world is comfortable with its own; it is rebuked by the holiness of those who are Christ’s. This is the reaction of the Religious Leaders as they observed the Apostles in Acts. (Acts 4:13)

2. The Christian is hated by the world because they identify with Christ who was hated first.

“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” John 15:20

“Remember the word” – Jesus had said this before in Matt. 10:24; John 13:16

The Christian can expect the same treatment that Christ received. “The proof of someone’s genuine conversion and life of discipleship, is the reaction of men to their ministry and life.” (Phil. 1:27-29)

“if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” – There will always be some that hear and believe our message. Christ saw those who truly believed and followed Him and we are also promised that we there will be souls as fruit to our labors.

3. The Christian is hated because the world is spiritually blind and ignorant.

“But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me.” John 15:21

“my name’s sake” – This is always the case! Believer’s will suffer persecution because they possess His Spirit and bear His image. Matt. 10:22; 24:9; I Peter 4:12-19 Their persecution came from men thinking they were doing God’s work!

“they know not him that sent me.” – The world does not know the Father, therefore, they hate Christians who do! John 17:25 The Religious Leaders knew and taught about God but they didn’t know and truly understand Him. John 8:19; 55; John 1:10 Today is the same; man wants their own way to God and have their pleasures. (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 4:17-19)

“We do not rightly know God if we do not know Him in Christ.” Matthew Henry

4. The Christian is hated because the world will not admit to their sin of rebellion toward God.

“ If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin : but now they have no cloak (Gk – excuse – Rom. 1:20) for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.” John 15:22-25

“spoken unto them”/“works which none other man did,” v. 22, 24 – These are the two ways in the ministry of Christ, God used to reveal Himself to man – the words and works of Christ! (John 5:36-38; 9:16; 10:37-38; 12:37)

“they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.” – Jesus’ ministry in both works and words stirred up the acknowledgement of hypocrisy and pride the people were blind too. The enemies of Jesus had no place to hide but to remove Christ from before them. (John 7:44-53; 11:47-57)

Christ’s coming revealed the world’s most severe sin; doing religion without obedience to God’s way and truth. The Jews rejected God’s way by rejecting Christ’s work and instead chose their own way. That is exactly what people do today across the world! Both in His works and words (they are front and center here v. 24- John 3:2; 5:36-38; 10:24-27; 14:10-11) Jesus revealed He was the Son of God sent from the Father. Heb.10:29-31; John 16:1-4 They had no excuse (cloak), they had heard His words and seen His power! John 9:32-41 The Pharisees had seen the power of Christ and chose to reject it. Not blink in ignorance – cloak was gone! James 4:17; 2 Peter 3:5 – “willingly ignorant of”.

“hateth my Father also.” – Jesus’ works and words revealed that the Father had sent Him. Ultimately they hated God or they would have embraced the Son! I John 2:23

Many name faith in God; call on God; sing of God; work for God; but the test of the God they worship is their relationship with Jesus Christ His Son! The problem they have is that they have “created” a god as they desire God to be, not as the Bible and Christ’s life revealed Him to be! Unfortunately, these same deceived folks say they reject the Gospel message as preached to them from the Scripture by faithful disciples of Christ, yet they are not rejecting a messenger, but actually rejecting God the Father!

“fulfilled that is written in their law,” – The very Scriptures they loved and held dear rose up against them. It was “their law”, yet they rebelled against the truth of it.

“They hated me without a cause.” – This is quoted from Psalm 35:19; 69:4; 109:3-5. David’s perfect divine Son, who confronted sin, was hated without a cause or no good reason by His enemies too. In Rom. 3:24, the same Greek word is translated “freely” – the idea is “for no reason”.

*“The light of God’s truth should be a welcome thing – it reveals sin and gives conviction.
Here Jesus said “they hated me without a cause.”! Men have sinful, rebellious hearts!
How do you react to God’s truth?”*

II. Help During Hatred – The Comforter Jesus told the disciples that He will send them another Helper when He leaves. Again, Jesus will speak of the Holy Spirit. He will be source of comfort and strength in face of the rejection of the world. (John 14:15-17, 26; John 16:7; 13-14;

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26-27

Concerning this verse, Matthew Henry said, “We have more in this verse concerning the Holy Spirit than in any one verse in the Bible” (MH pg. 1735)

1. The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person of the Trinity – Here Jesus is speaking about the Father and the Holy Spirit, all three persons of the Trinity is being mentioned.

2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth - He comes with power and authority, and moves at the will and direction of the Father. The name “Spirit of Truth” highlights His work of teaching, illuminating and His reminding work to the believer. I John 5:6

3. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter - He comes to be a Helper and Advocate for Christians.

4. The Holy Spirit is a witness of Christ – I love to say that the Holy Spirit’s favorite subject is Christ! The Holy Spirit is within the Christian! (John 14:17; I John 2:27) This passage is highlighting His task of testify in the hearts of believers the truths concerning Christ, and in turn we testify of Christ to the unbelieving, hostile world!

*“Christ was on a mission to redeem the world;
the Holy Spirit is on a mission to testify of Christ to the believer;
we are on a mission to tell the world!”*

“proceedeth” – The Holy Spirit will come “from God”----this is the idea “from beside God” He is of Himself equal, separate part of the God head. This word is a continual action verb so it should read, “which continually proceeds from the Father”---He is available for all believers, of all ages. (John 7:39; Acts 1:4; 2:38-39) Jesus came to do the will of the Father. The Holy Spirit is sent to speak of Christ. (John 16:13-15)

“And ye also shall bear witness,” - This is a current, active, statement of fact – indicative – not a command. There are two witnesses of Christ, (“also”) the Holy Spirit and believers – a work done together! These disciples were not left alone in their responsibility to be a witness. (Acts 5:32; 15:28; Rom. 8:16)

“because ye have been with me from the beginning.” – These 11 disciples had the facts of Christ and His message because they were with Him from the beginning! They could “serve as credible witnesses”. The disciples understood the importance of this and when replacing Judas in Acts 1, made this part of the qualification for this new man. (Acts 1:21-22) The idea of the eye witness is a consistent theme in the New Testament. (Luke 1:2; John 19:35; 21:24; I John 1:1-2; Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:20; Luke 24:46-49; I Peter 5:1; 2 Peter 1:16)

*“Darkness, confusion, heartache, rejection, and a great job ahead,
will all be meet by the Holy Spirit’s comfort and help.”*

Believer’s Application:

Suffering for Christ – The reality of being a follower of Jesus is that we will be persecuted for our faith in Him. Christ said, “If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you;” (John 15:20) Let’s look at several principles concerning the persecution of Christians.

1. Christ saw the persecution of believer's as against Himself. (Acts 9:1-6; Matt. 5:11-12; 10:22, 40; 24:9 Luke 10:16; I Peter 4:12-19) Persecution is always against Christ.

2. The proof of someone's genuine conversion and life of discipleship, is the reaction of men to their ministry and life. (Phil. 1:27-29; 2 Tim 3:12; Acts 14:21-23; I Thess. 3:1-7) Don't be "terrified", don't be intimidated! (I Thess. 3:3-4)

*"I believe that a Christian's popularity
can be an indication of how he is representing Christ to the world"*
JVMcGee

3. The Holy Spirit will be the source of comfort and strength in face of the rejection of the world. There is a blessing from God to those who endure persecution. (Matt. 5:10; 10:19-20) Paul saw the blessing as having God's grace and strength upon his life and ministry. (2 Cor. 12:10)

4. Christians can expect the same treatment as Christ received from sinful men.

5. Living godly before your persecutors may bring them to Christ. (I Peter 2:9-11) "visitation" is used both in the Old and New Testaments. It speaks of God's drawing close to people for blessing/redemption or judgment. (Luke 1:68; 7:16; 19:44) This is much like Peter's instruction to women married to unbelieving husbands in I Peter 3:1-6.

6. Persecutions come from all men. In Jesus' message to His disciples He gave the groups from where persecution will come – and it is all men! Religion; Government; Family; All Men! Those that "endure" show their true conversion and dependence on Christ. Those who fall away have no root! Matt. 13:20-21

*"Hatred is hard to bear, and the desire to escape it is one of the principal causes
for unfaithfulness and fruitlessness." Shepard*

*"Am I a soldier of the cross, A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause, Or blush to speak His name?"*

*Must I be carried to the skies On flowery beds of ease
While others fought to win the prize And sailed thru bloody seas?*

*Are there no foes for me to face? Must I not stem the flood?
Is this vile world a friend to grace To help me on to God?"*

Sure I must fight if I would reign; Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, Supported by Thy Word."
Isaac Watts – I Cor. 16:13 – 1st Published in 1801