

## **The Enmity of the World for God**

### **John 15:18-25**

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' NKJV

Jesus jumps from the subject of love to the subject of hate. The disciples were not to hate and envy one another but to love one another. They were the opposite of the world. The world is not a world of love. Even the word that Jesus uses here where He says that the world loves its own is not the same word He used concerning the love they were to have for one another.

Jesus is doing several things here. One of the things is to encourage the disciples to not be like the world but to love one another. Secondly, He is telling them that those who love the Father are not of those who hate. They are very different from the world. Thirdly, He is warning them that the world will not be favorable to them but will persecute them. He tells them that the reason is really not in them, for if they were of the world the world would not have a problem with them. The world's problem is with God and always will be.

Ro 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

There is much for us to learn from this passage as we consider it today.

- I. "If the world hates you v-18; therefore the world hates you v-19; they will also persecute you v-20; they will not keep your words v-20
- A. Jesus is not setting up a condition that is possible but something that will happen.
  - B. Just as sure as they hated and persecuted Jesus so they will His disciples.
    - 1. They would be hated and persecuted by the Jews first.
    - 2. Then they would be hated and persecuted by the Romans.
    - 3. And then eventually Jesus followers would be hated and persecuted by so called Christians.
    - 4. And today we are back to Christians being persecuted by the government.
      - a. It used to be in communist countries.
      - b. Now it is especially true in Islamic countries.
      - c. And even in America Christians are being singled out by the courts for persecution.
    - 5. Do not deceive yourselves by thinking that we have come to a better age when the world no longer hates God.
      - a. At the memorial service at the so called national cathedral this pas September 11 there were all sorts of religious people there but not one who would pray in the name of Jesus. I guess they did not not repeat of the tragedy that took place on September 14, 2001 when Billy Graham proclaimed peace and comfort in the name of Jesus Christ. [http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctpolitics/2011/09/evangelicals\\_le\\_1.html](http://blog.christianitytoday.com/ctpolitics/2011/09/evangelicals_le_1.html)
- II. You know that it hated Me before it hated you v-18; If they persecuted Me v-20; They will not keep my word v-20
- A. This is the real issue.
    - 1. The world hates Christians because they hate the Savior.
    - 2. Jesus had told the RELIGIOUS LEADERS of his day in Jn 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."
    - 3. Just think, if those who study the Scriptures and claim to worship God can be hateful of Jesus then the world so much more.
    - 4. Remember what Jesus said to Saul (Paul) "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 10:4 but Saul was persecuting Christians.

- B. Jesus tells them these things to warn them and to let them know that this they will share, that the world will hate and persecute both.
  - 1. John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV
  - 2. He wants them to not be turn aside from their message by the persecution they will face.
  - 3. It is just something that all Christians have been subject to.
  - 4. 2 Tim 3:12-14 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of . . . NKJV
- C. The servant is not greater than his master.
  - 1. 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. v-20
  - 2. We should not expect better than Jesus received.
- III. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. v-21
  - A. This is the root cause.
    - 1. They do not know God.
      - a. How could the Jews not know God.
      - b. They worshiped at His temple, they sacrificed to Him.
      - c. They were experts in the holy Scriptures.
      - d. But yet they did not have the heart of God.
    - 2. They are not God's people.
      - a. To be one of God's children means that you have the nature of God.
    - 3. They are not connected to Him in any meaningful way.
- IV. Without a cause.
  - A. There was no cause in Jesus or God that would cause them to hate Him.
    - 1. When you see one child hit another, what do you ask? What did you do?
    - 2. We have the idea that people would not act adversely toward someone unless they had done something to them.

3. But the truth is that God has done nothing but good for mankind and yet they hate Him.
  4. If they could they would destroy God and take over rule of the universe.
- B. Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Ephesians 4:17-19 (NKJV) 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

1 Kings 22:8 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!" NKJV

Isaiah 49:7 Thus says the Lord, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the Lord who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You." NKJV

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. NKJV

Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. NKJV

Matthew 10:22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. NKJV

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. NKJV

Mark 13:13 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. NKJV

Luke 6:22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. NKJV

John 3:20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. NKJV

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. NKJV

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. NKJV

1 John 3:13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. NKJV