

A. John 15:18-25 – Seven reasons to be hated

1. Introduction to this section.

- a. Nowadays, many Christians are **mistakenly** enraged against this world.
 - 1) Christians complain because the culture doesn't **support** them.
 - 2) Christians want government and society to **enforce** Christian values.
 - 3) Christians are angry because their **rights** are violated.
 - 4) Christians **sue** businesses and governments and march for the rights to celebrate or push Christian monuments and holidays on this world.
 - 5) Christians are easily **offended** and surprised by the ills of society.
 - 6) Christians are often bringing open shame and **contempt** to the cause of Jesus Christ, thinking He sanctions these actions when indeed He never asked us to fight for these things. 1 Peter 2:21-24
- b. What about this world?
 - 1) We must understand that this world is not our friend; it considers us to be the enemy. The world hates us. That is not saying something bad about this world; it is just seeing **reality** for what it actually is.
 - 2) Satan marshals the **forces** of education, religions, philosophy, literature, art, entertainment and government to deceive, discredit, and neutralize unguarded believers. These forces counter, ridicule, obscure, and obstruct the spread of the gospel message. Daniel 1:3-7, John 8:44, Acts 13:10
 - 3) The world system, run by the enemy of our souls, uses **compromise** as a primary weapon against God's people. Satan is a master of deception; therefore, believers must be alert. Genesis 3:4, 2 Chronicles 18:21, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 6:10-20, James 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - 4) We need to understand that we are blessed if we are hated by this world. We should **rejoice** in such cases. Why? Because we will be rewarded for tolerating persecution. 1 Peter 4:12-19
 - 5) Matthew 5:10-12 – *Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness... Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they **persecuted** the prophets who were before you.*
 - 6) We do not consider the individual unsaved **people** or this world as our enemies. In fact, God loved the world so much He sent Christ to die for all sinful humanity, as we are about to see. God does not want any person to perish. He wants to rescue everyone from Satan's dominion. Ezekiel 33:11; Ephesians 2:1-7, 6:12; 2 Peter 3:9
- c. What is the world?
 - 1) *World* in Greek is the word KOSMOS. World (KOSMOS) in many contexts does not refer to the physical earth or universe; it refers to the godless organized **system** that envelopes and demonically governs this planet. John 12:31, Colossians 1:13, James 3:14-15, 1 Peter 2:11, 1 John 2:16
 - 2) The leader of this godless organized system is **Satan**. His world order is divided into three areas. Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19, John 14:30
 - a) An organized system of **thought**: this organized system includes religious, political, philosophical and societal thinking, to mention just a few examples. 1 Corinthians 7:31, 1 John 2:15-16
 - b) An organized system of **organizations**: this organized system includes nations, religions, bureaucracies, political parties, corporations, unions, militaries, etc. Luke 4:5-7
 - c) An organized system of **people**: These are the unbelievers. These include people from every walk of life who are totally unaware they are involved in an evil world system. Mark 4:15, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Ephesians 2:2
 - 3) Even though this evil system of governance exists, God keeps it in check. Absolute rule by the world system (KOSMOS) is curbed by the Holy Spirit. This system is also interrupted by the actions of faithful and obedient Christians. This makes Christianity **enemy** number one to the world system. 2 Thessalonians 2:6-10
 - a) Satan **hates** believers with red-hot intensity. You must accept this reality. You must get used to the fact that you cannot make this world your friend, or friendly to the cause of Christ. If you believe that is possible, you are in for a rude awakening. James 4:4, 1 John 2:15

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- b) Until Christ finally returns, **conflicts** will persist between Satan's evil realm, the KOSMOS, and God's Church. Satan's forces do not adhere to any rules. God's children have specific instructions; their primary weapon being love. Proverbs 25:21-22, Matthew 5:43-48, Luke 6:27-36
- c) We need to remember that as we preach the gospel and add souls to the church of Jesus Christ, we are marching against Satan's gates. Satan is on the **defensive** in this battle, not us. In Christ we are the true overcomers. We are the spiritual infiltrators. The Church marches victorious. Matthew 16:18, 1 John 3:8
- d) Oh, by the way, we **win** in the end. The battle has already been decided. Therefore, we should not be surprised by desperate attacks from the king and his evil system. Let's not use the enemy's tactics or weapons. God's armor is sufficient. Romans 13:12; 2 Corinthians 6:7, 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13
- e) Keep in mind the fact that you are a **citizen** of heaven, an ambassador of Christ, and a stranger and pilgrim in this dark KOSMOS here below. 2 Corinthians 5:20, Philippians 3:20, Colossians 3:1
2. John 15:18 – The first reason the world hates us is because it hated **Jesus** first. “*If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you .*”
- a. After speaking considerably about love, Jesus now switched to talk about hate. Since, as believers, we are followers of Jesus Christ, we shouldn't be surprised if the world **hates** us. It hated Him first. John 1:10-11
- b. This hatred is intense and **perpetual**. The world has always hated God, and it will never change. The way the world expressed its hatred to Jesus was by killing Him. How do you feel the world will treat you because of your love for Jesus? Believer, you wear a target.
- c. We are to respond to the world's hatred with **love**. Romans 12 teaches us a unique way to live in this world.
- 1) Romans 12:17-19 – *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at **peace** with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.* 1 Peter 5:8
- 2) Romans 12:20-21 – *“But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with **good**.* 1 Peter 3:9
3. John 15:19 – The second reason the world hates us is because we no longer belong to it, and that makes us an enemy. “*If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*” The world considers us to be **traitors**.
- a. The world loves those who **belong** to it. On the day of your salvation you were born again, redeemed from the slave market of sin, and officially documented as a citizen of heaven. Since you no longer belong to the world, the world now scorns you.
- b. Satan hates losing people to God. He hates God's ultimate plan to rescue humanity from his dominion of darkness. Therefore, you are an object of antagonism. If this is not your experience, you should check your location. Maybe you are standing terrifyingly **close** to the world in your life and actions. Psalm 1:1-2, Proverbs 4:14, Romans 12:1-2
4. John 15:20 – The third reason the world hates you is because you now **serve** God.
- a. John 15:20a – “*Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...*” Since the world system persecuted Christ, His servants can **expect** opposition and persecution from the same crowd. The way they harassed Jesus is the way we will be harassed. 2 Timothy 3:12
- 1) Your slavery to Christ brings animosity against you. Bearing fruit in service to Christ and for His glory makes you a **threat** to the devil's strategy.
- 2) Satan does not take **losses** lightly. Every time we lead someone to Christ, we are taking ground from the Lord.
- b. John 15:20b – “*...if they kept My word, they will keep yours also .*” In this verse we see a glimmer of **hope**. Some in Israel had responded positively to Jesus. In the same way, some people will listen and believe when we share the gospel. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
5. John 15:21 – The fourth reason the world hates you is because it does not **know** the One who sent Jesus. “*But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me .*” John 8:55, 17:25
- a. The world's hostility stems from biblical illiteracy resulting in dismal ignorance of God and His ways. Creation shows there is a creator who is powerful, wise, and loving; yet the world suppresses this knowledge. They choose instead to **remain** willfully ignorant of God, their creator. Romans 1:18-24

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- b. God the Father sent Jesus to die for sins and to rise again victorious over Satan, sin and death. This was His **plan** from the beginning. Satan always counters God's plans and does not want his victims to hear about it. He wants ignorance of God to prevail. Genesis 3:15, Acts 2:23, 1 Peter 1:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:16
6. John 15:22 – The fifth reason the world hates us is because when Christ is preached a raw nerve is touched. “ *If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no **excuse** for their sin .”*
- a. If Jesus had not come into the world and communicated truth, the world would not have any real knowledge of its sinfulness. Now that sin has been duly **exposed**, the world has no way to excuse or justify its sinful behavior. 1 John 3:12-13
- b. Jesus, as the true light, clearly revealed the glory of the Father, and, in the process, exposed humanity's sin. The world does not want its sin exposed, so it rejected Him. Because the preaching of the gospel exposes sin, the world blames Christians for being judgmental and **intolerant**.
7. John 15:23-24 – The **sixth** reason the world hates us is because it hates God Himself, the Father of our Lord. “ *He who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.*”
- a. The **oneness** between the Father and the Son means that to hate the one is to hate the other and to worship the one is to worship the other. John 5:22-23, 8:42
- b. Jesus' miracles were of such quantity and quality that no objective and intelligent person could deny Christ's claim to be Messiah (Jn. 21:25). The world's sin was blatant rejection and denial of Christ, which is the **same** as rejection of the Father who sent Him. John 5:36, 10:38, 14:11
8. John 15:25 – The seventh reason the world hates us is no reason at all. Just as was scripture prophesied, the world hated Jesus without a **cause**. “ *But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'they hated Me without a cause'.*”
- a. The world had no legitimate reason to hate Jesus. The Old Testament prophesied about Him, His miracles showed He was God, He perfectly obeyed the Law, and He never sinned. He showed kindness to all. He should have been loved and accepted. The world had no reason at all to **condemn** Him. Psalm 35:19, 109:3; 1 Peter 2:20-24
- b. Jesus taught about this hatred so we would not be caught off guard or embrace the **fantasy** that we can make this world somehow fall in love with Jesus or look on Him favorably. The world hated Him without a cause, and, as His children, we can expect the same. We win the world by preaching the gospel not by becoming like it. 1 John 3:12-13

B. John 15:26-27 – Respond to rejection

1. John 15:26 – Jesus promised a helper for our survival in a **hostile** environment.
- a. John 15:26a – “ *When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father...*” Why did Jesus call the Holy Spirit a **helper**?
- 1) When you think of the seven reasons we will be hated by the world, it could be disheartening. Jesus knew His disciples (and later us) would need true help, someone perfectly suited for our comfort, protection and stability and on whom we could heavily **lean** in this sinister and hateful world.
- 2) Just as Christ came into this world with complete divine authority because the Father sent Him, so also the Holy Spirit came with complete divine authority because **Christ** sent Him.
- b. John 15:26b – “ *that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me ...*” One of the major **jobs** of the Holy Spirit is to convict and convince the unsaved world about the truth of Jesus. In making the statement, “*the Spirit...He,*” John used an irregular grammatical construction.
- 1) John used the masculine pronoun *He* to refer to the Greek neuter noun *Spirit*. Grammatically, a neuter noun has a neuter pronoun, but in this case, since God the Holy Spirit is a **person**, John used the masculine pronoun *He* .
- 2) The masculine pronoun shows that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal it (a ghost) but an actual person who can be **known** and loved.
2. John 15:27 – “ *... and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning .”* Just as the Holy Spirit's ministry would be to **testify** concerning Jesus, so also the disciples would become witnesses of Jesus. They would give this testimony in the face of great hostility. The Holy Spirit would be their strength. Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 1:8
- a. The Holy Spirit gives the marching orders of ministry. In modern warfare, before military hostilities begin between opposing nations, ambassadors and embassy personnel are recalled. This is not the case in spiritual warfare. Christ sends His emissaries and ambassadors right out to the **front** lines.



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- b. When Christ's ambassadors reflect the character and calling of Jesus Christ, they experience rejection and hostility from this world system. How they **respond** to these situations is critical. We are not the losers; we are the victors. Philippians 1:27-28
- c. Acts 5:17-42 tells how the apostles were arrested, jailed, miraculously freed, jailed again, and then severely beaten. Nevertheless, they **rejoiced** *that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for [Jesus'] name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*
- d. When we are mistreated, we should respond in love. We should not retaliate, grumble, quarrel or campaign against our persecutors. Like the apostles, we should rejoice for the privilege to suffer for our Savior. When we are not frightened by our opponents, it is a sign of their **defeat**. Philippians 1:27-28, 2:14-16; 1 Peter 2:23, 3:9, 4:12-13

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