

“DO YOU EXPECT THE WORLD TO LOVE YOU?”

John 15:18-27

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INTRODUCTION

So what do you expect? Do you expect the world to love you, to accept you, to be kind to you, to accept your doctrines, and to conform to your Biblical practices?

Since many will not so conform and accept, maybe you and I should conform our ways as much as we can to the ways of the world. Maybe we should be less open and outspoken with our beliefs and convictions. Maybe we should avoid the name “Baptist” on our church, modify our doctrinal statement, and change our music program to be more in tune with society.

When we think and act this way we are ignoring Jesus’ teachings in this passage. In this passage, Jesus shows us that we will be hated by the world, yet we are responsible to witness to the world.

GET OVER IT. THE WORLD IS NOT GOING TO LOVE YOU OR YOUR CHRISTIAN FAITH!

Are you better than Jesus Christ? Did the world love Him or did they crucify Him. It is time that we begin thinking Biblically about these matters.

Start doing your job—witness boldly and lovingly for Jesus Christ, and accept the rejection and dislike of the world.

I. THE WORLD WILL HATE YOU (18-25)

A. The World will Hate You as it Hated Him. (18-20)

1. It hated Jesus first.
2. It loves those that are like it; it hates those that are different.
 - You are different.
 - You are not from the world—it is not the source of who you are.
 - Jesus selected you out of the world.
 - The world touts toleration, but really promotes conformity!
 - You are not better than your master—Jesus.
Jesus likely refers to 13:16, and the subject goes back to Matthew 10:25.
 - The world persecuted Jesus—they will persecute you!
 - The world did not keep Jesus’ word—they will not keep yours.
 - If some did keep Jesus’ word, they will keep yours also.

B. The World Will Hate You Because It Hated Him (21-25)

1. When the world treats you badly, it is for the sake of Jesus’ name. (21)
 - Jesus’ name refers to all that He is as He has revealed Himself.
 - It is His person in all of His attributes.
2. When the world treats you badly it is because it does not know God. (21)
 - God is the One who sent Jesus.
 - Jesus always acted in accord with His Father’s will.

- Jesus and the Father are one—in perfect accord.
 - If they really loved God, they would really love Jesus.
3. When the world treats you badly, it has no excuse. (22-24)
- a. They have rejected Jesus' **words**. (22-23)
- These words were sent from God—Jesus “came”
 - These words were openly proclaimed—“He spoke to them.”
 - These words were unique—“No one ever spoke like this man.
 - Rejecting Jesus' person and words is **SIN**—in fact, in some cases the unpardonable sin.
 - This statement does not mean that they would have no sin at all, but that they would not be guilty of deliberate rejection of the Christ.
 - The fact that they reject Christ indicates that they were merely going through religious motions. They are phonies and hypocrites. They were falling short before, but it had never really been exposed until they were confronted with Christ.
 - Rejecting Jesus' words is the same as rejecting Jesus' Father who gave Him these words.
 - Jesus and His Father are one—**Jesus is God**.
- b. They have Rejected Jesus' Works (24)
- Jesus' works (both life as a whole and miracles) were unique—no one had ever done such things!
 - Jesus' works were genuine and could not be refuted.
 - They have seen Jesus' works.
 - They have hated the Person doing the works.
 - They have hated the One who sent Jesus—the Father.
4. When the World treats you badly it fulfills Scripture (25).
- a. It does not thwart God's plan.
- b. Evil people help fulfill prophecy.
- The prophecy is found in Psalm 35:19 or Ps. 69:4.
 - The Psalmist's experience is typical of Christ's—he is a child of God being treated in the same way as Christ in the future.
 - Psalm 69 is a “Messianic Psalm” often quoted in the NT.
 - The Psalmist was hated without good reason; Jesus was hated without good reason; you will be hated without good reason!
 - The Word of God “has been written”—it stands written and is just as valid as when it first came from God's mouth. Its truths and precepts are just as important and binding as ever.

II. YOU MUST WITNESS TO THE WORLD (26-27)

A. The Holy Spirit Bears Witness to Christ (26)

- He is the Helper (Paraclete).
- Jesus sends Him—cf. 14:16 where the Father sends Him in answer to Jesus' prayer, and 14:26 where the Father sends Him in Jesus' name.

- Note that Jesus puts Himself on an equal level with the Father.
- Jesus sends Him from the Father.
- He again is called the Spirit of Truth. He works in accord with Truth, and all He witnesses to is true.
- He proceeds from the Father. This likely refers to His earthly mission, not so much His “eternal procession.”
- The Spirit is a Person: “He.”
- His mission is to promote Christ—not Himself!

B. You Must Bear witness to Christ (27).

1. This is either a statement of fact, or a command.
2. The disciples had been with Christ from the beginning of His ministry.

You have been His follower since you have been saved; you know Him and His ways, and you must bear witness to His ways.

CONCLUSION

Enough conformity to the world! Enough fawning before the world in order to court its favor.

Why should we expect better treatment than our Lord?

Why should we desire the favor of the world more than His favor?

We are not from the world—the world will not love us.

Jesus has called us out of the world.

Let us be content to be like our Master! The world rejected His words; they rejected His works.

The world is without excuse and faces fierce judgment.

The world has hated God and His Son, Jesus Christ—without a cause!

But, the Spirit has come and He bears witness; we too must bear witness. That is our job!

GET TO WORK!