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Why The World Hates A Real Christian

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"These things I command you, that ye love one another. 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: 17-19).

A Christian is a believer in Jesus as the Christ and Lord. Saving faith is belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a trust in Christ that accepts His Lordship. Saving faith does not say, "I will trust Jesus Christ to save from the flames, but I do not love Him and will not obey Him." Saving faith is accompanied by love, and love causes us to keep His commandments. Saving faith is faith that fruits in works. If you tell me you have faith, I will know whether you have saving faith by what I see you do. You do nothing to show that you love Christ and His church and His people and His Word, and I will place a question mark after your salvation. What you say, where you go, and what you do are mighty testimonies of what you are. You are not saved by what you say, nor by where you go, nor by what you do; you are saved by Whom you trust. But the Holy Spirit who produces the faith in your soul, also produces love so that your faith worketh by love. When it comes to the way of salvation, you are saved by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ. But when it comes to the evidences of salvation, you are in the realm of

works. Here is a simple illustration: Take a tree: is it a good tree? How can we know whether it is a good tree? What is the final test? Is it not the fruit it bears? But did the fruit it bears have anything to do with making the tree good? The tree was good before it ever bore any good fruit. If the fruit had been bad, that would be proof that it was not a good tree.

Who makes us Christians? Do we make ourselves Christians? Then we are our own Saviour. Does the preacher make Christians by sprinkling some water on our heads, or by immersing our whole body in water? No, it is the Holy Spirit who makes us Christians by His regenerating power. The Church Covenant says, "Having been led, as we believe by the Holy Spirit, to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour, and being baptized on profession of our faith in Him, we covenant to do thus and so." The Holy Spirit is the author of repentance and faith in us. It is He that caused us to hate sin and trust the Saviour. We are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works—so that we can do good works.

Our text was spoken by Christ to His disciples. He told them they would not have an easy time in this world. Their bed would not be soft and their path would not be rosy. They would find themselves hated—hated for His Name's sake.

Nobody likes to be hated, at least, I don't think they do. I don't. I would rather be loved than hated; and if I cannot be loved, I should prefer to be liked a little—but I don't want to be hated.

Now we must not be hateful; for there is no remuneration when we are hated because we are hateful. It is when we are hated for His sake that we may find great comfort.

WHY WAS JESUS CHRIST HATED?

What did Jesus Christ do to be hated? Did He do anybody any harm? Did He go around stealing this and that? Did He lie on anybody? We find Him going around doing good. He fed the hungry; He opened the ears of the deaf, and the eyes of the blind; He healed the crippled; He called the dead from their graves. He took little children up in His arms and blessed them. And what was His reward? They hated Him. The religious world professed to believe in God, but when Jesus Christ came saying, I am God—He that hath seen me hath seen the Father—they hated Him. They said, "We don't want a God like you." They wanted a Christless religion. And that is what the religious world wants today—a religion without Christ—without His sovereign demands upon them. The religious world conspired to destroy Him, and one of His own disciples treacherously betrayed Him.

Why was Jesus Christ hated? It was because the carnal mind is enmity against God, and He was God manifest in the flesh.

When was men's hatred of Christ especially manifested? It was at His teaching. Luke 4:16-30. John 6:60-66.

WHY IS THE REAL CHRISTIAN HATED?

It is for His Name's sake—because he is identified with Christ. Loyalty to the truth will bring the world's hatred. Stand for the truth by lip and by life, and you will be hated.

You may think if you are kind and gentle like Christ that you will be loved by the world. Not so. It is for being like Christ that the world hates the Christian. The more like Christ, the more severe will be your witness against the world.

Jesus said the world will love its own. Love exists among kindred spirits. The world will love its own, but Jesus said, "...but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." Stand for the truth, and you will be hated.

A young man fell in love with a Christian girl. She had her pastor preach the word that we are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. And to his proposals she said, "No." He went to her pastor and said, "If it were not for you, I could have that girl." The pastor replied, "I thank God you are not getting her. You are not worthy of her, and am sure you will never get her until first of all Christ gets you."

Mr. Spurgeon was once censured by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. He had made a

valiant fight against what he called the Down-Grade Movement—Modernism. A man present when the resolution of censure was passed testified to what he saw. A man whom Mr. Spurgeon had literally picked up out of the gutter stood on a seat and waved his handkerchief in approval of the censure. Mr. Spurgeon with his own money had put him through college, and everything except his gutter experience he owed to Mr. Spurgeon, and yet he gave his approval of the censure passed on the world's greatest preacher.

Christ has chosen His people out of the world. The world does not like to lose its members. They resent meddling on the part of Christ in robbing them of any of their number. The world not only loves its own, but it wants to keep its own. If the world loves you, it is because you are of it. The very moment one becomes a Christian, he is no longer of the world. That which attracts to Christ separates from the world.

WHY THIS HOSTILITY IS NOT MORE APPARENT TODAY

1. Because there are many other bonds that unite men. There are domestic ties—natural relationships like that of husband and wife and parent and children. There are business and professional ties. A saved man may belong to the same profession or follow the same business as lost men do. And much of our lives moves on this surface where all men are alike. All men have the same physical needs, pursue the same avocations, and do the same sort of things determined by external circumstances. Externally, the saved and lost live in the same community, and on the same street, get their mail at the same post office, buy their groceries from the same merchant, work in the same office, and have many things in common. This is all a matter of necessity, but let us get beneath the surface of things and grapple with the real, deep-lying, and formative principles of life, we see differences between the saved and lost. There is an internal difference that separates them in things that are a matter of choice—in things that reveal the state of the mind and heart.

2. The external influences of the Gospel have softened the world's hatred, and influenced it along moral lines. As someone put it, "The world has got a dash of Christianity into it since Christ spoke." There is a common code of morality on the surface, and thus the gulf between the saved and the lost is partly bridged over, so that the hostility takes another form. The world no longer wraps Christians in pitch and sticks them up for candles to burn in the Emperor's garden, but the same thing can be done in different ways. There is the laugh of scorn for the Christian who puts Christ first, the feeling of pity for the Christian

who does not enjoy the pleasures of sin. The world thinks that life must be dreadfully dull for the Christian who does not enjoy the high life it thinks it has.

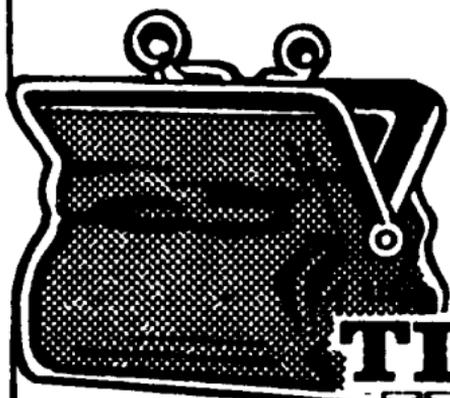
3. But perhaps the main thing that masks the hostility our Lord spoke about is that Christianity has compromised with the world until the line of difference has become rather dim. It has been said that a half-Christianized world and a half-worldly church get on well together. Why should a world hate or persecute a Christianity that is no different from it? It was out-and-out Christians Christ said the world would hate.

Let Christians see to it that the world hates them for their goodness, and not their evils. Let no Christian be hated for dishonesty, or drunkenness, or lying, or vulgarity; let him see to it that he is hated for pleasing God. Let us be careful that it is Christ in us that men turn from and not from us ourselves in sin.

The real Christian must not be surprised at the world's hatred. Remember, Jesus said, "A servant is not greater than his Master." If the world hated Jesus, then we cannot expect anything else than that it will hate us. In our efforts to escape the world's hatred by compromising, we are taking the attitude that we are better than our Lord, and that we have the right to expect better treatment than He received from the world.



The Test of Faithfulness - **HOW YOU USE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO YOU**



*"Where Your
Treasure Is,
there will your
heart be also."*

Matt. 6:21

TITHING:
KEY TO
ABUNDANT
LIVING