

Jesus - Stand Firm!

John 15:18-27

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 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 persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. But the word that is

written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

You will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

Matt.24:9

1st Century Persecution

- . Religious reasons –
(Jews & Gentiles) called "atheists"
- . Social reasons –
slaves & masters equal
men & women equal
- . Economic reasons –
Idol worship denounced

1. The world hates Jesus

If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you. Jn. 15:18

Definitions of the “world’

- . All people on earth – God loves everyone Jn. 3:16
- . He knows everyone – not everyone knows Him Jn. 1:10
- . Culture independent of God and His Word

The “world” hates Jesus?

- . Satan has blinded their minds –
2 Cor. 4:3-4
- . Sin has hardened their hearts – Eph. 4:17-19
- . Friendship with whatever is against God – James 4:4
- . Love the darkness – hate the light – Jn. 3:19-20

The cross has come down through the centuries passing its unfailing judgment upon the sin, the pride, the greed and the self-indulgent pleasures and lusts of people. The cross says to the world, “You are sinners,” and the world doesn’t like to hear that. The cross throws a great searchlight on the evil of the world and it doesn’t like that.

Billy Graham

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Matt. 5:11

If you were of the world,
the world would love you
as its own. (19)

“Phileo” –

- friendship love
- like the same things
- natural affection
- kindred spirit

But because you are not
of the world, but I chose you
out of the world...

“out of this world?”

- . New creation – 2 Cor. 5:17
 - . New nature – 2 Peter 1:4
 - . New family – 1 Jn. 3:1
 - . New kingdom – Col. 1:13
 - . New direction – Eph. 4:17
 - . Not isolated from the world
 - . Not immersed in the world
- Therefore the world hates you.

... one whose way is straight is an abomination to the
wicked. Prov. 29:27

“Radical relativity has invaded our cultural consciousness. Any absolute truth claim is disdained as idolatrous, illusory and bigoted.”

Christianity Today Mag.

“If we remain silent about our faith in order to gain acceptance by the world, we have made a poor trade. In fact, we are being dishonest in two ways: We deny the faith we claim as central in our lives and we deceive those whose acceptance we want by not revealing our true Christian faith.”

John MacArthur

2. The world persecutes Jesus

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.

Jn. 15:20

Indeed, all who will desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. 2 Tim. 3:12

Do not be surprised brothers, that the world hates you.

1 Jn. 3:13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you...

1 Peter 4:12

“Persecute” – to pursue with hostile intent; “to put to flight”

If they kept My Word,
they will also keep yours.

They are from the world, therefore they speak from the world and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 Jn. 4:5-6

Focus is on His Word!

Unity is in His Word

Disunity – over His Word.

3. The world hates His Father

But all these things they will do to you on account of My name, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

(21)

If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin

(22)

No Excuse!

. Clear evidence in Creation – Rom. 1:20

. Clear evidence in Christ –

Jn. 15:22

. Clear evidence in Christians –

Matt. 5:16

How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has spurned

the Son of God...?

Heb. 10:29

Whoever hates Me,
hates My Father also

(23)

... that all may honor the Son,
just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor
the Son does not honor the Father
who sent Him.

Jn. 5:23

No one who denies
the Son has the Father
1 Jn. 2:23

4. The world hates Jesus without a cause.

But the word that is written in their law must be fulfilled:
“They hated Me without a cause” (Jn. 15:24) quotes Ps.
35:19

All the evidence points
to the truth of Jesus

- . Purity evidence
- . Historical evidence
- . Scriptural evidence
- . Transformational evidence
- . Prophetic evidence

Their hatred, their unbelief lacks reasonable foundation

- . Not justified
- . Not merited
- . Not valid

“without a cause”

- . Be respectful

- . Be truthful
- . Work hard
- . Be unselfish
- . Be humble
- . Be loving

How can we be “Jesus Strong?”

- . The opposition is not about you – It’s about Him
- . The spirit of truth will help you -
But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you
from
the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the
Father, He will bear witness about Me.

Jn. 15:26

- . Live “above reproach” –
don’t compromise!
- . Know the Word –
Live the Word!
- . Be loving – overcome evil
with Good.

Rom. 12:21

- . Stand strong together!
(Where’s your back up?)

Eph. 6:10,18

- . Look for opportunities to share the Good News!