

## Why, In the World, Do They Hate Us? *(And What Are We Going To Do About It?)*

### A. I John 3:11-13 Marvel Not, My Brethren, If The World Hates You

1. (AMP) Do not be surprised or wonder brethren that the world detests and pursues you with hatred.
2. (MSG) Don't be surprised friends, when the world hates you. This has been going on for a long time.
3. What we are seeing in the media is nothing new.
4. A reporter said of Billy Graham in 1954: "When Jesus was on earth, He rode a lowly donkey. I can't imagine Jesus arriving in England on a great ocean liner."
5. If the world HATES you
  - a. (GREEK) detest, persecute
  - b. To pursue aggressively with the intent to malign and destroy
  - c. To hunt down as you would an animal
  - d. To love less – or not at all
  - e. To drive out, to chase out of a place
  - f. Hate implies active ill will in words and conduct accompanied by a persecuting spirit.

### B. John 15:18-25 (AMP) Seven Reasons Why The World Hates Christians

1. Vs. 18 Because the world hated Jesus first
2. Vs. 19 Because we are not of this world
  - a. John 17:14 I have given and delivered to them your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world—do not belong—just as I am not of the world.
3. Vs. 20 Because if they persecuted Jesus they will persecute us
4. Vs. 21 Because we bear the name of Jesus
  - a. (CEV) People will do to you what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me and they don't know the one who sent me.
  - b. (GW) ...because you are committed to me
  - c. (MSG) They are going to do all these things to you because of the way they treated me.
5. Vs. 23 Because whoever hates Jesus hates the Father—and we are in the family
6. Vs. 24 Because the world has seen the works of Jesus and have hated he and the Father—and we are in the family
7. Vs. 25 Because they hate us for no reason
  - a. (MSG) They hated me for no good reason
  - b. (GNB) ...for no reason at all

C. Seven Additional Reasons Why The World Hates Us

1. Because of our stand for Israel
  - a. The nations hate Israel and all who stand with her.
2. Because we stink
  - a. II Cor. 2:14-16 (NLT) Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are being saved, we are a life giving perfume (AMP ...an aroma from life to life—a vital fragrance, living and fresh).
3. Because they are jealous
  - a. Gen. 26:12-16 Isaac sowed and received 100 fold in the same year. He increased greatly, having possession of flocks and herds. The Philistines envied him and stopped up his wells. Isaac left and dug again, and the Philistines stopped up his wells. He just kept digging and wouldn't give up, even in the face of persecution.
4. Because they think they are doing the world a favor by getting rid of us
  - a. Saul persecuted the church, thinking he was helping God.
  - b. He was caught up in his own “crusade,” thinking he was doing right.
  - c. Gal. 1:13, 14 (NLT) You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.
5. Because they want to embarrass and shame us
  - a. Ps. 69:7 (KJV) Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face.
  - b. (NLT) For I endure insults for your sake; humiliation is written all over my face.
  - c. Isa. 61:7 (NLT) Instead of shame and dishonor, you will enjoy a double share of honor. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.
6. Because they want to use us to draw attention to themselves
  - a. Sadducees, Pharisees and lawyers followed Jesus everywhere.
  - b. They hurled questions at Him, not to learn, but to trap, destroy and fulfill their pride.
  - c. Luke 10:25 One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking Him a question.
  - d. They were proficient at using others for selfish, prideful reasons.
7. Because the devil is trying to stop THE BLESSING from operating in fullness in our lives.
  - a. He is trying to stop the Garden of Eden from spreading.
  - b. He is trying to discourage us from using our dominion and authority.

- c. Mark 4:17 When affliction or persecution arise for the Word's sake, verse 19 says they choke the Word (THE BLESSING) and it becomes unfruitful.

D. How Do We Conduct Ourselves in the Face of Hatred and Persecution?

1. Luke 6:27, 28, Matt. 5:43-48 Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, bless them that curse you and pray for them which despitefully use you.
2. Col. 2:6, 7 (AMP), Ps. 112:7, 8 Have the roots of your being firmly and deeply planted in Him—fixed and founded in Him—being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving.
3. Prov. 16:7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
4. Ps. 91:1, Ps. 31 Stay in your secret place kept secretly in a pavilion from the strife of controversy—the place of rest.
5. Eph. 6:10-14, Isa. 54:17 Stand firm with the armor of God declaring, “No weapon formed against us shall prosper.”
6. II Thess. 1:3-12 We glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.
7. I Peter 4:12-19 (NLT) Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. So be happy when you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? And also, “If the righteous are barely saved, what will happen to godless sinners?” So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

Happy (GREEK): To be supremely blessed!
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