

John 15:18-16:6

Handling Hate: How We Should Think about and Respond to Hatred Directed at Us/Our Faith in Christ

What We Should Know When the World Hates Us v18

If (and when) the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

7 Things You Need to Know about “The World”

1a: The world doesn’t “know” Christ John 1:10; 17:9; 1 John 3:1

1b: And yet Christ came to take away the sin of the world John 1:29

1c: And God the Father loves the world John 3:16

IOWs: The world (κοσμος) here is NOT Planet Earth, but its unsaved population

2: Christ and Christians are in but not of the world John 8:23; 17:14-16; 18:20

3a: The world does not have the Spirit of Truth John 14:17

3b: But the Holy Spirit works to convict the world of SRJ John 16:7-11

4: Satan is “the prince” of this/the world John 14:30

5: The world hates Jesus and those who love Him John 15:18-27

6: Faith in Jesus Christ overcomes the world 1 John 5:1-5

7: NOT every individual unbeliever is active/virulent in his/her opposition, some are apathetic or even sympathetic to certain Christians and/or some aspects of Christianity, but at its worst the world’s hatred for Christ and Christians is persistent/innate; active/ugly and violent.

What We Should Know about Why the World Hates Us v19-27 Because Believers are In the World But NOT of It v19

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.

Because the World Hated (and Still Hates) Christ v20

If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...

Because the World Does Not “Know God” v21-27

But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, they hated Me without a cause. ²⁶ When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Contrary to secular expectation: religion is NOT dying! The world is MORE “religious” today than it has ever been...but sadly the majority of religious people do not “know” the one true God whose program/purpose is centered in Jesus Christ as THE Exclusive Issue/Issuer of Eternal Life (John 14:6 and 6:39-40).

What We Should Know about Why Jesus Warned Us the World Will Hate Us 16:1-6

So We Will Not Stumble/Doubt in the Face of Opposition v1-3

These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. ³ These things they will do for they have not known the Father or Me.

So We Will See Worldly Opposition as a (Temporary) Opportunity v4-6

But these things I have spoken to you, so that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. These things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, where are You going? ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

Take This To Heart

Fellowship with Christ is Offensive to the World

- 1: To the extent that believers identify with Christ in the world we will face real resentment/ridicule, contempt/hatred...and this should not surprise us
- 2: Evangelical Christians are NOT going to win popularity contests in the world BUT: we should not be UN-necessarily offensive in our tone, manner or timing NOR should we be constantly on the defensive/apologetic about our convictions.