

No people have been more hated than Christians—more than any other people, Christians have been the object of hatred from the very beginning of time—in fact, the 20th and 21st centuries, have seen tens of thousands of Christians displaced from their homes and put to death—experiencing hatred and persecution is inevitable for every Christian...

Thus, having spoken about love (vv12-17), our Savior now speaks about hate—Christians are to love one another as Christ loved them, all the while enduring the hatred and mistreatment of this world—think of this contrast—we are to abide in Christ's love (v9), extend this love to others (v12), all the while living within a world filled with hate (v18)...

For example, let's liken the church to a ship, and this world to an ocean—within the ship we have love—love from Christ and love for each other—but in this world we find hate—thus the Christian's experience is a contrast between love and hate—he knows and extends love, all the while, experiencing the unjust hatred of this world...

Our Savior was about to leave His disciples—it was Thursday night, only hours away from His arrest, trial, and crucifixion—our Savior leaves His beloved disciples with necessary instruction—and a part of that instruction is that they must expect persecution—if the world hated Him, it will also hate them—they are to love, and yet, expect to be hated...

I. The Reality of Hatred—v18

II. The Reasons for Hatred—vv19-21

I. The Reality of Hatred—v18

1. V18—"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you"—by "if" our Savior means "when"...
2. For Christians, experiencing the hatred of this world isn't optional—all Christians, to varying degrees, will be hated...
3. Thus, under this first main heading, the reality of hatred, I want to suggest two things—the nature and source of hatred...
4. [1] The NATURE of hatred—the word rendered "hate" literally means "to pursue with hatred or with detest..."
5. It describes a deep hatred that often results in actions—this isn't a dormant hatred, but an expressive hatred...
6. It breaks out in words and deeds—the expressions of this hatred can vary, from rejection to outright persecution...
7. This hatred does not merely lie dormant beneath the surface of man's heart, but finds expression in word and deed...
8. Thus, I want to suggest, we can loosely divide the various expressions of hatred into three broad categories...
9. [a] Verbal—by this I mean, Christians will endure the mockery, scoffing, scorn, and ridicule of this evil world...
10. This verbal abuse of course can vary in intensity—oftentimes, it can merely include a rude comment or remark...
11. At other times it may entail some person yelling, screaming, and even spitting in our face, but either way it's an expression of hate...
12. [b] Social—by this I mean, Christians will endure the hatred of this world, in a social and even political sense...
13. First century Christians experienced this, as their business and possessions were ceased by government authorities...

14. But this is also seen in our day, when Christian business owners are targeted and punished for their convictions...
15. [c] Physical—by this I mean, actual physical abuse—beatings, imprisonment, and in the worst case—martyrdom...
16. Though there may little of this form of persecution in this country, all over the world, Christians are being killed...
17. Thus, this persecution can be seen in various forms—verbal, social, and physical, but either way it's an expression of hatred...
18. [2] The SOURCE of hatred—our Savior identifies the source of this hatred as "the world"—"if the world hates you..."
19. Most of you know Scripture uses the word "world" differently—here it refers to—fallen humanity, controlled by Satan, and at enmity with God...
20. Thus, in the broad sense, this hatred will come from the world of fallen mankind—man in his native darkness...
21. Ian Hamilton—"The world is everything and everyone who apposes and resists the claims of Christ. The world is found wherever men and women do not embrace the Son of God and give to Him their love and their worship and obedience..."
22. And yet, let me suggest we can divide this "world" into three broad categories—religious, militant non-religious, and indifferent...
23. [a] Religious—that is, oftentimes hatred will come from people who claim to be religious, and even Christian...
24. In this particular passage, the specific hatred and persecution referred to, would come from the Jewish leadership...
25. And brethren, it's been true to my experience, that some of the strongest hatred I've faced is from supposed Christians...
26. I have a friend that some of you know, who often stands on street corners, and preaches the gospel to those who pass by...
27. And he has often lamented the fact, that those who appose him most, are those who profess to be Christians...
28. But then think also of Islam—Muslims have killed, and are continuing to kill Christians all over this world...
29. Yes, there are millions of peaceful Muslims, but historically Muslims have hated and persecuted Christians...
30. [b] Militant non-religious—by this I refer to those who openly and aggressively claim to be atheist or agnostic...
31. I trust it's obvious, that within this nation, hatred and persecution are increasingly come from this group of people...
32. Though I personally think this remains a rather small minority, they are increasingly becoming influential...
33. Have you ever wondered why these militant atheists almost always exclusively target the Christian religion...
34. They get upset at any other organized religion, but they hate Christianity, and try to remove every evidence of it...
35. [c] Indifferent—by this I refer to those who are generally quiet and accepting, though they often will surprise you...
36. These people tolerate and even appreciate religion as long as it makes no dogmatic and personal claim on them...
37. Their philosophy is—religion and morality are fine, providing we present it in a flexible and bendable fashion...
38. Such person will allow religion to be preached to others, but when it's preached to them, that's when they respond...

## II. The Reasons for Hatred—vv19-21

## A. Because we're no longer of this world—v19

1. V19—"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you..."
2. A Christian is no longer of this world—that means, he no longer speaks, acts, and thinks as this world does...
3. A Christian is presently IN but not OF this world—if they were OF this world—"the world would love its own..."
4. That is, the world loves the world—this doesn't deny that the world fights among itself, but it fundamentally agrees...
5. Perhaps I can put it this way—though in one sense the world hates itself, it collectively hates Christian people...
6. Though the world fights among itself, it joins together in its hatred and persecution of the church of Christ...
7. Simply put—the world hates something more than itself, and that's Christians—though it disagrees on many things, it agrees on this...
8. Martin Luther—"Towards each other, apart from Christ, the men of the world are as little friends as dogs and cats. In all that concerns Christ they are unanimous in hatred..."
9. Our Savior identifies the reason, we are no longer "of the world"—"because I chose you out of the world..."
10. Now, before I go any further, let me take a few minutes and explain the meaning of this very beautiful phrase...
11. There are, in a sense, two aspects of our election—[a] the Father chose us from eternity and gave us to Christ as a love-gift...
12. [b] Christ chooses us in time, when He calls us out of this world to Himself—this refers to effectual calling...
13. These two aspects of election go together, as they are not so much two elections, but two aspects of a single election...
14. Because the Father gave us to His Son from eternity, the Son comes into time and takes us out of this world...
15. The Father chose us from the mass of fallen humanity in eternity past, and Christ calls us out of fallen humanity in time...
16. Thus, when our Savior says—"I chose you out of the world" He's referring to His choice of them out of this world in time...
17. When He calls to Himself those people elected by His Father and given to Him as a love gift before time began...
18. Thus, since we have been called out of this world, and are no longer OF it, the world hates us for two reasons...
19. [1] We have left it—that is, the world hates us because we have left this world, and become subjects of another kingdom...
20. We have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light—our citizenship is now in heaven...
21. For example, think of a young gang member who decides to leave and join a rival gang, who is at war with them...
22. The gang he leaves is not going to like this—in fact, they likely will turn on him and even threaten to kill him...
23. Well, so too, we are by nature a part of this world—we have pledged allegiance to it—we are a member of it...
24. And then one day, Christ called us out of this world to Himself—we left this world with its thinking and practices...
25. But it's more than this—for in addition to leaving this world, we have aligned ourselves with its arch-enemy...
26. [2] We condemn it—by this I mean, every time the world sees and hears us, it's reminded of the truth of God...

27. A Christian is a walking reminder of native man's guilt before God, and the fact he will one day give an account to God...
28. This knowledge remains in all men natively, as the image of God remains in man by nature, in some dim degree...
29. Thus, when native and fallen man sees and hears the truth, this brings conviction to their guilty conscience...
30. And so, in an attempt to quiet or appease their conscience, they will try to silence the truth in any way possible...
31. 1Jn.3:11-13—"For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, not as Cain *who* was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you..."
32. Cain hated his brother Abel—he murdered him—but notice why, v12b—"Because his works were evil and his brother's righteousness..."
33. That is, Cain hated Abel because his deeds were exposed by his brother—Abel's righteousness exposed Cain's wickedness...
34. Lawlessness is made clearer when contrasted with lawfulness—unrighteousness is exposed by righteousness...

B. Because it hated our Master before us—v20

1. V20—"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 kept My word, they will keep yours also..."
2. Here we find another reason for the world's hatred—it hates Christians because it hates Christ seen and heard in us...
3. The world doesn't hate us so much for ourselves, but for the sake of Christ—because it hates Christ, it hates His...
4. V20—"Remember the word that I said to you, A servant is not greater than his master"—here He's thinking back to 13:16 (Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master—that is, if He washed their feet, they must wash each other's feet)...
5. The point being—if He as their master is hated, then they as His servants will also be hated and mistreated...
6. Masters and servants are related—if the master is hated, then of necessarily, his servants will also be hated...
7. V20—"If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also..."
8. The point being—the fact that they did not keep His word (generally speaking), means they will not keep theirs...
9. Now, this passage in the first place must be applied to the disciples, who would speak the inspired word of Christ...
10. To receive their message was to receive Christ Himself, and to reject their message was to reject Christ Himself...
11. But this is also true of all gospel ministers in general, and it's also true of all Christians, in some certain sense...
12. Thus our Savior is forewarning them that they will largely receive a similar reception as He Himself received...
13. They hated Me, persecuted Me, and rejected My word—thus, you as My representatives, will be treated similarly...
14. If they would have kept My word, then they would have kept you word—but since they did not keep My word, they will not keep yours either...
15. It's possible our Savior is thinking back to the OT, and what the Lord told Ezekiel the prophet in Ezekiel 3:4-7...
16. Ezek.3:4-7—"And He said to me: Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My words to them....v7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are stubborn and hardhearted..."

17. Thus, our Savior traces the hatred of the world for His people, back to their hatred for Him and for His word...
18. [1] They hate His image—that is, man in his native condition hates true righteousness wherever he beholds it...
19. And because, no person was more righteous than our Savior, no person was ever hated more than the Lord Jesus...
20. And as a result, the more we imitate Christ and reflect His image in this world, the more we experience the hatred of this world...
21. Prov.29:27—"He who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked"—that is, wicked man hates uprightness...
22. [2] They hate His word—that is, they hated Him because of what He said—about God, Himself, man, and eternity...
23. Again this is something that we have all seen—native man hates to be confronted with the reality of TRUTH...
24. The world may not hate everything about His word—they may allow certain phrases on coffee cups and wall plaques...
25. But when the truth of morality, salvation only in Christ, and roles of women are taught—man's hatred erupts...

C. Because it does not know the Father—v21

1. V21—"But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me..."
2. Here we find the foundational reason why native man hates us—because it hates Christ, and it hates Christ, because it hates His Father...
3. If you remember, our Savior early said—to see Him is to see the Father—that is, He reveals the Father's character...
4. Because man hates God, He hates Christ, who is His image, and he hates Christians who live and talk like Christ...
5. In the first place this has to be applied to the Jewish leaders, who, contrary to their thinking, did not know God...
6. They knew much about God, but they did not know God—they refused to know God as He is revealed in Christ...
7. But this is also the reason why all men, natively and without exception, hate Christ and His people—they do not know God...
8. Yes, He knows about God, yes He believes there is a God, and yet, fallen and foolish man does not know God...
9. Now, most of you are aware that this phrase "know God" actually refers to a deep and abiding love for God...
10. Far from loving God, native man hates God, and because He hates God, he hates everything to do with God...
11. He hates His Son, His word, and His people—and though this hatred shows itself in different ways and degrees, it's always just below the surface...
12. Exhortation 1—Let us love one another—this exhortation is especially evident if we include v17 with v18...
13. In other words—the fact that Christians will face the hatred of this world, is a reason for them to love each other...
14. I started this message by describing the church as a ship in a stormy sea—in the ship is love but outside is hatred...
15. And yes, I totally understand that because of God's kindness and common grace, man is restrained from expressing that hatred more fully...
16. But, let me make this as plain as I can—increasingly we will find, that true and lasting love is found only in Christ...

17. Oh let me briefly say a word to the young people—do not be fooled in thinking that this world will love you...
18. The love that the world has for its own is an imitation or perversion of true love—it's hatred disguised as love...
19. Prov.7:18—"Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love" v25—"Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths" v27—"Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death..."
20. Exhortation 2—Let us love our enemies—by this I mean, let us ever temper our view of the world with compassion...
21. Brethren, this passage forces us to view the world with compassion, simply because, we were by nature a part of it...
22. There are two ways every Christian must view the world—we must view it as rebellious but also as misguided...
23. Those who are "of this world" are villains who rebel against God, but they are also victims, blinded by Satan...
24. Yes, Christians should be vexed by the wickedness they see and hear around them—there is a righteous hatred...
25. And yet, dear brethren, we must ever and always temper that righteous vexation, with tender pity and compassion...
26. Matt.5:43-45—"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust..."
27. Far from responding in turn, Christians are to repay evil with good—we must love and pray for our enemies...
28. This of course was perfectly illustrated in Christ—"who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously..."
29. Or else, just think for a moment how Christ responded to us, who by nature hated Him and rebelled against Him...
30. Exhortation 3—Let us love our Savior—by this I mean, let us be sure the world hates us for the right reasons...
31. The world should never hate us because we are rude, unkind, or self-righteous, but because we love Christ...
32. This is why we live the way we do, and this is why we say the things we say—because we love Him, who first loved us...
33. But you might object—if the world will hate us in direct proportion to our love for Christ, then why would you have us love Christ more...
34. Well, let me very clear on this point—it is NOT so that the world will hate us more—Christians are never to court the world's hatred...
35. To be hated by the world is a heavy burden that brought great sorrow to Christ and also His beloved followers...
36. But, and this is my point, if loving Christ means facing the hatred of this world, then let us love Christ and suffer for Him...