

## Why Were Christians Hated?

How can it be that those who seek to follow Christ are often hated by the world?

## Introduction

- One of our strongest desires is to be approved by others
- In contrast, one of our greatest fears is to be rejected by others
- As we live the Christian life, it appeals to some in the world

2

## Introduction

- But many reject the Christian life and often become hostile toward Christians
- We should not be surprised by the world's hostility but rather learn how we should respond to it to please the Lord

3

## The Christian Life Appeals To Some But Produces Hostility In Many

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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

4

## Do Not Be Surprised That The World Hates You

1Jn 3:13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

5

## Why Were Christians Hated?

1. Why was Jesus hated?
2. Why were Christians hated?
3. How did they react to the world's hatred?

6

## Why Was Jesus Hated?

- We begin by noting Jesus, the sinless Lamb of God, experienced great hatred
- Jesus warns His disciples they will be hated also

7

## Jesus' Warning – They Hated Me and They Will Hate You Also

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

Joh 15:19 "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.

8

## Jesus' Warning – They Hated Me and They Will Hate You Also

Joh 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave 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.

Joh 15:23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also.

9

## Why Were Christians Hated?

Joh 3:19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

Joh 3:20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

10

## Why Were Christians Hated?

Joh 3:21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

11

## Why Were Christians Hated?

Joh 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

12

## Why Were Christians Hated?

1Jn 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;

13

## Why Were Christians Hated?

1Jn 3:12 not as Cain, *who* was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

1Jn 3:13 Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.

14

## Conflict Between Unrighteous and Righteous From The Fall of Man

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

15

## Live A Holy Life Not Conformed To This World

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

1Pe 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

1Pe 1:16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

16

## Fervently Love One Another

1Pe 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1Pe 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

17

## Follow Jesus' Example Trust In God and Live Righteously

1Pe 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1Pe 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

18

## Follow Jesus' Example Trust In God and Live Righteously

1Pe 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously;

1Pe 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

19

## Reverently and Humbly Defend Our Faith

1Pe 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

20

## Reverently and Humbly Defend Our Faith

1Pe 3:16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

21

## Live For The Will of God Not Compromising With The World

1Pe 4:1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

1Pe 4:2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

22

## Live For The Will of God Not Compromising With The World

1Pe 4:3 For the time already past is sufficient *for you* to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.

1Pe 4:4 In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*;

23

## Live For The Will of God Not Compromising With The World

1Pe 4:5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

24

## Rejoice That We Suffer As Christians

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

1Pe 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

25

## Rejoice That We Suffer As Christians

1Pe 4:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1Pe 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

1Pe 4:16 but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

26

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27