

# Hated By the World

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## Introduction:

- A Truth You Don't Want to Hear or Accept
- Your association with Jesus and taking a stand for righteousness marks you as different and also an enemy.
- The sooner you understand and accept this inevitability the sooner you can move on to remove the angst in your gut and love the victims of the world in spite of themselves, as befits your calling.

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<sup>18</sup> "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. <sup>21</sup> They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' <sup>26</sup> When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:18-27)

"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you." (John 16:1-4)

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## WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD'S HATRED

- **Defined:** "Hate" (*miseō*) to detest, loathe, having malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards others.
- Hatred is fueled by our own sinful flesh and by the ruler of the world system (Satan).
- "Worldlings" (default, victimized participants in the world system) don't possess the life-changing experience of God's love which is necessary to overcome their hatred of God, Jesus or us.
- We were once worldlings ourselves, enemies of God until God's unconditional love broke through to us.

## WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT THOSE UNDER THE WORLD SYSTEM

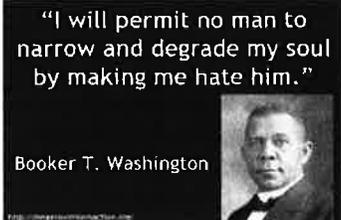
1. **Their Identity:** Anyone living outside of a personal relationship with, and the under the Lordship of Christ. (Non-Christians: Adherents of Other Religious or Philosophical Systems, Pawns in Satan's World System)
2. **Their Evil Intent:**
  - The world (members of the world system) hates Christians without personal cause. (:18,23)
  - Their hatred results in our persecution for Jesus' namesake. (:20)
  - They love only their own. (19)
  - They hated and persecuted Jesus. (:18)
  - They proved their hatred of the Father by hating and persecuting Jesus. (:20,23)
  - They don't experientially know Jesus nor the Father. (:21)
  - They will banish you from fellowship with them. (:16:2)
  - They will even consider they are serving God by killing you. (16:2)



# UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD'S HATRED

1. How we encounter the world's hatred of us:
  - Our righteous mindset and lifestyle exposes and convicts them of their own unrighteousness and sin.
  - We will constantly be at odds on cultural/political issues which conflict with the truths of God's Word.
  - We will be labeled as, "Haters" and "Intolerant" by the very people who demonstrate both.
2. Various strategies in dealing with the world's hatred:
  - ONE EXTREME: Get angry and return evil for evil.
  - THE OTHER EXTREME: Avoid the tension by compromising our faith, seeking peace at all costs.
  - INTERNAL STRESS: Fuming over the tension and becoming incapacitated and/or explode in retribution.
  - MODELING JESUS: Loving our enemies in spite of themselves (See the many commands of Jesus on this)

<sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threat; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup>But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup>keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. – 1 Peter 3:14-17



## Properly Processing the World's Hatred

1. Affirm your understanding and acceptance of the world's hatred with this Disciple's Statement:

"I am a disciple of Jesus Christ.  
Due to my allegiance to my Lord I expect that the world will hate me, as they hate him.  
I understand that I will persecuted, threatened, mistreated, maligned, and in some cases – might even be killed.  
I expect to be labeled as a "hater" and "intolerant" due to taking a humble stand for righteousness.  
I renounce my love for, and allegiance to the world system, but pledge to fulfil my calling to love my enemies in spite of themselves because of God's unconditional love for me."
2. Control your media diet (news and entertainment) in order to insulate yourself from culture shock.
3. Consume positive input and truth-based messages from God's unchanging Word. (Philippians 4:8)
4. Remember that you too were once a worldling until God's love broke through to you. (Romans 5:8)
5. Pray for a spirit of pity and love for worldlings. (Matthew 5:43-44)
6. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)
7. Allow the Holy Spirit of truth to work through you to give powerful testimony of Jesus (John 15:26,27)
8. Love people practically in words and actions in order to reveal God's love to them.

## A Closing Thought:

Our persecution is still so light in comparison to the intense suffering our brethren all around the world have always experienced. These statements we explored today of the world's hatred are general in scope for all time, but we know that one of the descriptors of the last days is an intensification of "people's love growing cold". In light of our persecution, we must encourage and remind one another of sound biblical truth in order to respond appropriately.