

Our Relationship With The World

(John 3:16)

- Introduction:
1. God loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.
 2. Yet, the world rejected him, crucified him, and hates his followers (John 15:18-20).
 3. We are given numerous warning about the world (1 John 2:15; James 4:4).
 4. So what should our relationship be toward the world?

I. First Understand Why The World Hates You

- A. Because they hated Jesus (John 15:18).
- B. Why hate Jesus - he was sinless? (1 Peter 2:22).
 1. His purity exposed their impurity.
 2. His knowledge exposed their ignorance.
 3. His compassion exposed their calloused hearts.
 4. His absolute holiness exposed their profanity.
 5. In short, Jesus made the world look bad.
- C. In him, we saw God in the flesh (John 1:1,14).
- D. Jesus was a constant reminder of the God the world hates (Romans 1:28).

II. In Light Of The World's Hatred, What Should We Do?

- A. Expect Persecution.
 1. (2 Timothy 3:12).
 2. (1 Peter 4:12-13).
 3. Rather than being overwhelmed by persecution, learn to expect it, and if viewed in the context of faith, one can even embrace it as an opportunity to share in the sufferings of Jesus.
 4. (1693 - Thomas Shepherd) - "Must Jesus Bear the cross alone and all the world go free? No there's a cross for everyone and there's a cross for me.
 5. No matter how much we have been called upon to suffer, remember we are not alone and others have suffered more (Hebrews 11:35-38).
- B. Love The Lost.
 1. (John 3:16).
 2. (Romans 12:17) Repay no man evil for evil.
 3. (Romans 12:21) Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.
- C. Live In The World, But Don't Be Of The World
 1. There is a natural desire for a disciple of Jesus to withdraw from the world.
 2. God calls us to do the opposite (Matthew 5:13-15).
 3. (Romans 12:2).
 4. (1 Corinthians 15:33).

- Conclusion:
1. With God's help, and a proper perspective, we can endure the temporary trials and afflictions of this world, knowing that they work for us a far greater weight of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17).
 2. With an eternal perspective, we can rise above the wicked treatment we will experience, and be a beacon to those who are lost in the dark.