

Teen Bible Club

Devotional

Date: April 23, 2004
Subject: Biblical Separation
Title: Who Hates You?
Bible Text: John 15:18-19

*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of
the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
John 15:18-19*

There were a lot of people who loved Jesus, not just because of what He did, but because of who He was. But there were also a lot of people who hated Him. In fact, there were more people that hated Him than who loved Him, just like today, if this wasn't so, they would not have been able to crucify Him—there would be too many people standing for Him. But let's think about who hated Jesus. Who exactly was it that hated Him and why did they hate Him.

First, we need to realize that there were some who "liked" Him, or seemed to "love" Him, but as soon as He told them the TRUTH about themselves, they turned away from Him. There are a lot of people like that today, they like to say that they are good, and that they are "Christian" because they go to church, or give to the poor, or something like that but they would be the first ones to deny Him if they got embarrassed or if they felt threatened because of associating themselves with Christ. Jesus spoke about some people like that, He called them hypocrites: *Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. And Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.*

These people want to appear "good" and "righteous" and they dress and talk the part only when certain people are watching, but they easily forget Who is always watching! Do you know anybody like that? Are *you* somebody like that?

But let's see about the people who really hated Jesus. They were the people of the world. Just like today, there are people who hate Jesus and they are the people of the world. Notice I didn't say the people in the world—but people of the world. Have you ever heard the expression "Christians are in the world but not of the world?" That's a good illustration of how it really is. The people who hated Jesus were of the world, and frankly, of the devil, this is his world. The people who hate Jesus today are the children of the devil, and that's a fact. Jesus spoke point blank to some of these people when He said in John 8:42-44: *Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

So what does that say about the people who would hate you? Would you even want some of those people as your friends, people that if the Lord were here they would be some of the first ones yelling "Crucify Him!!" I sure wouldn't want that. I would just keep showing God's love and witness to them.

This brings me to the next point. Why did they hate Him? Because He spoke and lived the truth. By the way, He is the Truth. They hated what He did and what He was, simply because they were so wicked they couldn't bear to even have Him around. Just like some of you, I know that some of

you have lost friends because of your faith in Jesus and that's a blessing and an encouragement to me. Some of you are being persecuted in school, at home, wherever there are people who don't understand the love of Christ and what it means to be saved and live for Him. God will bless you so much for that. But there are some of you who haven't lost any friends. You haven't been teased, persecuted or ridiculed. You haven't been made to feel out of place because of your faith in Christ, in fact, you haven't suffered at all because you keep your Christianity a closely guarded secret outside of church. Does someone like that really think they are getting away with something? The only thing they are getting away with is getting away from the unimaginable blessings of God.

Now, if you are one who loves Jesus, are saved and know it, it's time to stand up for Jesus like never before. Be separated from the filthy ungodly world. Let the world know you're a Christian, not just by saying it, but by living it. Dress like you're dressing for Jesus every day, would you dress in something sloppy, tight, torn, ungodly, sexy, worldly, demonic, or even questionable if you knew Jesus was coming back today?

A person who loves and stands for Jesus, I mean truly, would watch every word that they say. How in the world could anybody say a filthy word or tell a dirty joke when Jesus is standing right next to them. By the way, He is! When would Jesus watch the filth and ungodliness on the TV that does nothing but mock His holy name? Think about it. These are just some example tonight, of the things we need to straighten up in our lives and prepare to suffer for Jesus, He said in John 15:20-21 *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

If we know Him, and He is in us, we will risk suffering and persecution, for the reward that awaits us—being in His loving arms for ever and ever and hearing those faithful words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Wouldn't that be worth it all?