

July 26, 2015

ABIDING IN CHRIST: OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

John 15:18-27

Who stands against us? (The world.) John 15:18-19

- Christ confirms the **fact** the world hates us. John 15:18-19; 17:14; 1 John 3:13; Matt. 10:22; 23:34; 24:9
- **Satan** stands behind the world's hatred. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 2:2; 6:10-11; 4:4; Acts 5:18, 39-40; 2 Cor. 4:8-9; 6:4-5

Why does the world hate us? John 15:19-21

- The world doesn't **know** Jesus Christ. John 15:21; 16:3; 8:19; 1 John 3:1; John 3:16-21; 14:10-11
- The world hates us because we are **different**. John 15:19; 2 Cor. 5:17; 2 Pet. 1:4; John 17:16; 2 Cor. 6:17-18; Matt. 5:10
- The world hates us because of our **identification** with Christ. John 15:19-21; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 10:22, 24; John 13:16; Acts 4:17; 5:41; 1 Pet. 4:12-14; John 17:14; Phil. 3:10; Gal. 6:17
- The world hates us because of our **devotion** to Christ. John 15:21; Matt. 10:22; 24:9; Acts 4:17; 5:41; 1 Pet. 4:14

What is our response? John 15:18-19

- Living out in the **power** of the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8; 4:8, 18-31; 6:5, 8; 7:54-60
- Love and **pray** for those who hate us. Matt. 5:38-49; Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60; Rom. 12:20
- Praise the Lord for the privilege, **honor** and opportunity to suffer for Him. John 15:18-19; 1 Pet. 4:13-16; 2 Cor. 11:23-29; 6:4-9; James 1:12

An early Christian leader named Tertullian (164-200AD) declared: "Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust. The more you mow us down, the more we grow, for the seed of the church is the blood of the Christians. Every single drop of our blood springs up, in some thirty, in some sixty and in some and hundred-fold."

Perseverance reveals genuine faith. Because Christ lives in us, we can remain courageous and hopeful to the end. We are not saved by being steadfast and firm in our faith, but our courage and hope do reveal that our faith is real. Without this enduring faithfulness, we could easily be blown away by the winds of temptation, false teaching, or persecution. The Handbook on Bible Application Richard Wafford