

WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.
HE WAS WITH HIM AT THE
BEGINNING, THROUGH HIM ALL
THINGS WERE MADE. WHO
HIM, WHO HING, WHO HING
HAS BEEN MADE, WHO HAS
LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS
OF MEN. THE LIGHT SHINE
THE DARKNESS, AND THE
NESS HAS NOT UNDERSTOOD IT.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 15:18-27

Introduction

In this passage we begin to look at the relationship between the true believer and the world. The world hates true believers. The world mocks, ridicules and considers genuine believers strange and foolish. The world (under Satan's control) want to suppress the message of the Gospel and will use persecution that ranges from social stigma to murder to intimidate the believer to silence.

Jesus wanted the believer to be informed and to know what his relationship with the world is.

John 15:18-27

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant 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. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.' ²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

The Reality

John 15:18

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.”

The reality is that the world will hate the believer.

The Reasons

John 15:19

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

This passages gives four unjustified reasons for the world's hatred.

1. The world hates believers because we are not of the world.
2. The world hates believers because they are identified with Christ.
3. The world hates believers because it does not really know God.

The Reasons

John 15:22-24

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

4. The world hates believers because it is convicted of sin. Jesus said that two things convict the world.
 - a. His message convicts the world: it strips away the world's excuse of sin. He preaches and teaches righteousness; therefore, His message exposes the sins of people.

The Reasons

John 15:22-24

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.”

b. Jesus' life and works convict the world of sin. Note the words, "they would have no sin." This does not mean that men would not be guilty of sin if Jesus had not come. What it means is that since He has come, men have seen exactly who God is. God has been revealed to men; therefore, they stand guilty of the most terrible sin of all: rejecting God and His Son. If He had not come, they would not be guilty of this sin.

Note the claim of Jesus to be the revelation of God and to be equal with Him. To hate Him is to hate the Father also.

The Result

John 15:25

“But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'”

The world is without excuse. There is no sense for its hatred of Jesus. Think about it. The world hates and opposes the One person...

- who lived and spoke for righteousness more than anyone else ever has.
- who cared and ministered more than anyone else ever has.
- who worked for true love and justice and the salvation of the world more than anyone else ever has.

The Result

John 15:25

“But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'”

The world's hatred for Jesus Christ reveals that the true nature of the world is *evil*. The world is without excuse.

The Rejoicing

John 15:26-27

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

Jesus gives the promise of victory over the world. Victory comes from two sources.

1. There is victory through the Holy Spirit.
 - a. He is the believer's Comforter through persecution.
 - b. He is the believer's Spirit of Truth through persecution.
The truth will prevail through all persecution.

The Rejoicing

John 15:26-27

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

c. He will testify to the world, convicting them even while they are hating Christ. Note: the Holy Spirit is sent "from the Father" and "proceeds from the Father". A literal translation would be, "from the side of the Father." God is coming to us. Our rejoicing is that God accepts us even when the world does not.

The Rejoicing

John 15:26-27

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2. There is victory through the believer's own witness and fellowship with Christ. The believer walks and fellowships with Christ. He sees and hears with the eyes and ears of his heart, and he learns of Christ. Therefore, he declares the glorious message of Christ so that this world, even its persecutors, may have fellowship with believers and with the Father and His Son.

The Rejoicing

John 15:26-27

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

The believer bears witness because he really knows Christ. It is practically impossible to know the true Messiah, the Savior of the world, to know that no man has to die, and not proclaim the message. A genuine believer is a person of conviction, a person who cannot keep quiet if he knows and experiences the truth himself.

So What ...

Everyone wants to be liked and accepted. We are social creatures.

We need to remember that we live in a “fallen” world, filled with people who are spiritually blind and under the influence of a world system that is opposed to God.

When we live and speak differently from the world, we bring conviction to the world.

Some will respond and accept God’s plan of Salvation, other will seek to silence our message as they did Jesus.