
FOLLOWING CHRIST DRAWS FIRE.

Q: What is the 'world'?

A: *kosmos*: "the world, and everything that belongs to it, appears as that which is hostile to God, i.e. lost in sin, wholly at odds with anything divine, ruined and deprived."¹

Q: What is 'hate' in the New Testament?

A: "Expressions for 'hatred' frequently involve idiomatic phrases, for example, 'to kill in the heart' or 'to spit at someone in the heart.'"²

Q: Why does Jesus reference haters?

A: "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away."
John 16:1

John 15:18-27

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but 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 also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.' ²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:1-4a

"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² 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. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Understanding haters

- 1) The world has waged a long war against God: the world hated Jesus **before** it hated His followers – 15:18

If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

- 2) The world hates Jesus because He exposes its **guilt**: Jesus exposes and the world opposes – 15:25

But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’”

John 3:19b-20

the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

How the Gospel exposes our guilt: Reasons why Christianity attracts persecution

- Jesus is the only Way: Idolatry is empty.
- Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed within natural (heterosexual) marriage between one man and one woman for life.
- *Imago dei* (image of God): Every person of every gender, race, and ethnicity, born or unborn, has been created in the image of God and has irreplaceable intrinsic value.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

- 3) The world’s **hatred** is an **opportunity** for you to witness – 15:26-27

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

¹ William Arndt, Frederick William Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 562.

² J. P. Louw and E. A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* 2nd ed., Vol. 1 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 763.