

Title: Does the World Hate you?

Text: John 15:18-27

() Now, beginning, here, in Vs 18 John talks about the conflict that all christians will have. There is a conflict that we all face. You see, God's purpose for your life is to bear fruit, as we discussed last week. God's wants us to be a positive witness to those who are lost and need the love of God.

(1) Now, this conflict, first of all, Vs 18-21, is based upon our relationship to Christ. If you are a believer, you are going to have conflict. That is the simple message here.

(1) First of all, notice the contrast to the world that we are as believers. Vs 19.."If you were of the world, the world, would love its own' but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

WHY DO UNBELIEVERS HATE CHRISTAINAS? Well, first of all, because we are not the world. We are not unbelievers....SIMPLE...That is the main problem. I am not an unbeliever. I am a believer. I am not of the world. The world loves its own.

(2) Number two, the comparison of our lives with our master and our lord. Vs 20.."Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his mater.If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you."

So, this conflict I experience is based on my relationship to Christ. And as I compare myself to the Lord, and I am the servant, if the Lord gets it, willn't I get it? And that is the point of Vs 18. If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you,."

Jesus said in another passage, "Beware, when all men speak well of you. Some of us are looking for the approval and appreciation of others. And Jesus said, "Beware". The truth of the matter is that if we are receiving the world's appreciation, if the unbelieving crowd thinks we are just wonderful, I suggest to you that you may not be living for Christ the way he wants us to.

I find that living for Christ makes unbelievers uncomfortable. They don't want the standard of my life in Jesus Christ.

Not too long ago an individual in this church, who is here today, a new Christian, came up to me and said, "Pastor, I can't believe what has happened to me since I became a Christian."

I said, "What has happened." She said, "the thing that I don't understand is that all these friends or people that I thought were my friends, they have just turned me off."

But then she said, "That is O.K. because I just don't have the same interest anymore that they do."

You can't help it folks! If you are sincere about your faith in the Lord, you are just going to have a different attitude towards life..what you do...and where you go....And people who are not Christians are just not going to understand....

And you know what I am talking about. Because many of you have experienced that very thing.

And you see, Jesus predicted this. And as we compare ourselves to our Lord, the servant is not greater than his Lord,.

And Peter wrote, "He who suffered, we are to walk in his steps." "While being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously"(I Peter 2:2)

God is the judge of all. We are to be faithful in our witness.

()WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THIS CONFLICT? We read this very clearly in Vs 21. "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me."

The cause of the conflict is that they are not related to God. There is no personal knowledge between them and almighty God. They have not come to know Christ as Saviour and Lord.

(2) Secondly, this conflict is based on His reprove of their sin. This is the meaning of verses 22 to 24. HE REPROVED FOLKS OF THEIR SIN.

And if you live for Christ, your'll own life will do that. In addition to your words. And he did it in two ways.

(1) In Vs 22 he did it with his words. He said, "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin,"

Now, all people have sin. But the point here is guilt. They realized their guilt when they heard his message. And "now they have no excuse for their sin."

(2) And secondly, in Vs 24 by his works. What he did, also brought them guilt. Have you noticed the same thing? As a christian witnesses in his life to Jesus Christ, his words convict and reprove.....His works, what he does, convict and reprove.

If you live for Christ you are going to experience conflicts. Because it is based upon the reproof of sin. And our whole life is against sin. NOT FOR IT, BUT AGAINST IT.

(3) And third, it is based on the revelation of the Word. The conflict that you and I are going to have is based on the revelation of God's Word. In Vs 25 Jesus said, "But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE."

It is a fulfilment of Scripture.

Notice, he said that it was written in "THEIR LAW". In other words, you don't even read your own scripture. THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE. There was no reason for them to Hate Jesus. He loved people. He never desired to harm anyone.

And you will experience the same thing many times. There is no reason why some /~~of~~ folks should hate you and not like you. But if they hated Christ, they will hate you.

They hate what you represent..they hate what your message is..they hate what you do and what you believe is right. They hate it all.

WHY? Because the world thinks that freedom is doing whatever you want to do. Jesus said: "THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

A worldly person does not like our message. It does away with their excuse for sin.

(4) And fourth, Vs 26 and 27, he deals with the coming of the Spirit.
At first you might think that this is unrelated. But it isn't. It is all tied together.

And there are just two simple things that I want you to know in these last two verses.

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with me from the beginning."

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP HERE? The relationship is that as a believer when you ~~is~~ ^{go} out into the world to witness you are going to have conflict. But remember this: the helper..the comforter...the one called along side of you...to encourage you. The HELPER...the Holy Spirit..is going to testify of Jesus in your life. And that is why they don't like you. Because they don't like the manifestation of Jesus in your life which the Holy Spirit produces. And you will bear witness, also, of Him, just as surely as the Holy Spirit bears witness of him.

And that is fantastic as I realize what God wants you and me to do as believers. TO WITNESS FOR HIM.

The spirit of God in us is bearing a witness to the person of Christ that folks don't want to receive. They don't want our Jesus.

You see, people don't want Jesus until the Holy Spirit breaks the pride and self-centeredness of the sin of their life. And when that happens they realize that the only way of salvation...the only hope of everlasting life... is BELIEVING IN JESUS CHRIST A LONE.

As One guy that I was sharing with said to me, "I don't want this. I want to live the way I want to live." He didn't want the message of Christ. Because he wanted to live his own life. He wanted to do what he wanted to do. And he didn't want anybody telling him what sin was.

Dear friends listen. If you are seating here today and don't know that personal relationship with Christ, don't come to him in hypocrisy, not with a front and any deceit, you must come to him realizing that He is jgoing to destrøy the bonds of your sin. He is going to tell you what is right and what is wrong. He is going to offer you forgiveness because he loves you. And he is going to tell you that you are guilty. And he offered himself in your place when he died on that cross to pay for your sins.

So, many people want to accept Christ to have something better. It is sort off like getting a new job, or getting a higher salary. THAT IS NOT WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.

Christ is going to ask you to admit your sins and fall down on your knees and say, "MY LORD, AND MY GOD."

That there is no other way that a person can be saved. Except through the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the only way to be saved.

Let's close in prayer