

Why the World Hates Christians

John 15:18–25 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “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.*’

Introduction

For those who love and study Church history, you will know of a man by the name Polycarp. Polycarp was born in 69 A.D. He was a disciple of John, John whose gospel we have been studying. He was a friend of Ignatius, a mentor to Irenaeus. He lived to be 86 years old, and for the second half of his life he served as the bishop of Smyrna. He was a venerable man, highly respected for his holiness, his orthodoxy. He was also one of the most famous martyrs in the early church. After his death in 155 A.D., the church at Smyrna sent out a letter, telling the story of “blessed Polycarp,” and that’s how his story has come down to us in church history.

Here’s what we read in part. Polycarp has been arrested, he has been brought into the stadium, and we read, “Now as he was entering the stadium, there came to Polycarp a voice from heaven, ‘Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man.’ And no one saw the speaker, but the voice was heard by those of our people who were there. Thereupon he was led forth and great was the uproar of them that heard Polycarp had been seized. Accordingly, he was led before the Pro-Consul, who asked him if he was the man and when he confessed, the Pro-Consul tried to persuade him, saying, ‘Have respect to your age,’

and so forth. Then he said, 'Swear by the genius of Caesar, repent, say, 'Away with the atheists.'"

Now they said that because the early Christians had no idols and so they thought you're not, yore some philosophical sect. You must be atheists because we can't see any of your gods.

"Then Polycarp looked with a severe countenance on the mob of lawless heathen in the stadium and waved his hand at them, looking up to heaven, and he said, 'Away with the atheists.'" So he has a sense of humor even at the end.

"The Pro-Consul urged him, and said 'Swear I will release thee, curse the Christ,' and Polycarp said, 'Eighty and six years have I served Him and He has done me no wrong. How can I then blaspheme the King who saved me?'"

Then a little later, the Pro-Consul said, "'I have wild beasts. If you do not repent, I will throw you to them.' But he said, 'Send for them, for repentance from better to worse is not a change permitted to us, but to change from cruelty to righteousness is a noble thing.' And then the Pro-Consul said again, 'If you do despise the wild beasts, I will make you to be consumed by fire if you repent not.' And Polycarp answered, 'You threaten the fire that burns for an hour and in a little while is quenched, for you know not the fire of the judgment to come, and the fire of

eternal punishment reserved for the ungodly. But why do you delay? Bring what you will.”

And so the story goes on as blessed Polycarp was burnt at the stake and they sought to fasten him and he said, “You don’t need to fasten; the Spirit will keep me here and comfort me in my final moments.”

Less dramatic a story for sure, but perhaps more immediately relevant for the world that many of us may live in, is this exchange from June 2017.

Perhaps you remember this story in the news. There was a nominee for Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. His name Russell Vought, a Christian, and he was being questioned by a U.S. senator Bernie Sanders, about his faith, and the senator said, “Let me get to the issue that has bothered me and bothered many other people. You wrote,” and he’s referencing a blog post that this nominee had written, “You wrote, ‘Muslims do not simply have deficient theology, they do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ His Son and they stand condemned.’” That’s what Vought wrote. The senator said, “Do you believe that this statement is Islamophobic?” He says, “Absolutely not, Senator. I’m a Christian and I believe in a Christian set of principles based on my faith. That post, as I stated in my questionnaire to the committee, was to defend ,Wheaton College, a

Christian school that has a statement of faith that includes the centrality of Jesus Christ for salvation.” The senator then interrupted, continued to press the issue, sometimes even shouting, “Do you think that people who are not Christians are going to be condemned?” he asked. Vought replied, very calmly, “Thank you for probing on that question. As a Christian, I believe that all individuals are made in the image of God and are worthy of dignity and respect regardless of their religious beliefs. I believe that as a Christian that’s how I should treat all individuals,” and then he’s interrupted by the senator, “You think your statement that you put into the publication, ‘They do not know God because they reject Jesus Christ, His Son, and stand condemned,’ do you think that’s respectful of other religions?” “Senator, I wrote a post based on being a Christian and attending a Christian school that has a statement of faith that speaks clearly in regard to the centrality of Jesus Christ and salvation.” At which point the senator says, “I would simply say, Mr. Chairman, that this nominee is really not someone who is what this country is supposed to be about. I will vote no.”

This is the tip of an iceberg that goes very deep into a Satanic Sea of Corruption and hatred for Christ and His Word.

We are witness to the rise of persecution and hatred of Christianity in North America unlike any time in its history.

The ignorance of our society of Biblical norms and the rapid decent of our culture into immorality and the rise of a generation who does not know the God of our fathers has fertilized a seedbed ripe for hatred.

We are about to walk where many have before but where most of us haven't .

Review

We have been away from John for a few weeks now, so I want to take a moment and bring our minds back to this text and the context of the words of Christ we will begin discussing today.

Remember, that as we leave chapter 12, we are leaving the public ministry of Jesus. He has pronounced judgement on Israel because of there unbelief. As result of there rejection of the claims of Christ, they will be confirmed and confined in there

unbelief, so much so that they will not be able to believe.

In chapter 13, Jesus turns his attention to the 12 disciples and for the next few chapters its all about them and the instruction and comfort Jesus will give to them. The Foot washing occurs and a great lesson on love, service and humility and the Lord's Supper is instituted, this Passover will be the last and the Old Covenant will give way to the New Covenant. The Identification of the one who will betray Jesus made Judas is told to do what he will do quickly. At the end of 13 and the beginning of 14 Jesus tells his remaining 11 that he will be leaving soon and comforts them with words of assurance of His Return and gives them words of love and peace that only He can give.

In chapter 15, we are given truth and warning of what it means to abide in Christ and the reality that there are those who will superficially attach themselves to Christ.

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

⁹ “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

¹² This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

After the discussion of the potential of being superficially attached to Jesus, He reminds the genuine disciples of His Love for them and His desire that they have joy and that they are his

friends and He has chosen them. But then He goes on to warn them that they will be hated by the world, so they can be prepared.

This is very important because unlike the way Christianity is often presented today, It will not be a bed of roses. Things will not always be good. There will be times you will be isolated and designated to be the troublemaker in the world. You will find out that maybe you are the only one in your family that has a Biblical worldview. You may be surprised to know just how uncommitted your professing christian co-workers are when you are ask to affirm a unbiblical lifestyle. You may find out that many who say they are with you are against you. This is not a new thing that has happened in the world. Christians have always been hated and persecuted through out its history.

But for some time we have experience an unprecedented time of acceptance in the culture we live. But that is rapidly changing on scale and speed that no one has anticipated.

What is now politically correct is clearly not Biblically correct and as a result you, christian, have become the problem. You are the obstacle in the way of political and moral progressivism. You are its

proverbial thorn in the flesh and the acceptance and tolerance of you is disappearing rapidly. There are new norms that are being put in place right now as I speak that are going to test your commitment to Christ. The time of peace and prosperity for the true church has come to a close, and now we will face a time of persecution and peril that will purify the church. Although it is unlikely that you will be strapped to a pole and burned alive, or wrapped in animals skins and hunted by God hating liberals.

It is a very real possibility that you can lose your job or see a pay cut or be made uncomfortable enough you will leave. Churches will be fined and pastors will be jailed. The Tolerance that so many cry for these days will not be tolerated when it comes to Christians beliefs.

I am not trying to be pessimistic about the future and for those who are post millennial in your eschatology, I am not saying the the gospel is not powerful and cannot save. No, no, I do believe the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and I also know and believe that the Church has prospered most under the hand of severe persecution and hatred.

Just remember the darker it becomes the brighter the light and life of the Christian. The more hopeless

it becomes for the world, the more hopeful our Christ appears.

Let me remind you a few text of Scripture
1 Peter 4:12–19 (NKJV)

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now

“If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

Matthew 5:10–16 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Now with that said, we turn our attention to our text. John 15:18-25

In this text the hate is mentioned 7 times. We move from love to hate.

Jesus will teach us that the world hates us and some might call this an axiom, a self evident truth.

But you might be thinking like many do,

Why do they hate me. Im a nice person, I don't hurt anyone, Im faithful to my family and job. I always on time, I don't complain. I help people in need, I give to the poor, I pick up litter off the road I live on. I like animals both cats and dogs. I like the planet, I even recycle.

So why in the World does the world hate me?

Lesson.

The World hates you.....

1. Because of the Root
2. Because of the Residence
3. Because of the Reality
4. Because of the Rejection
5. Because of the Responsibility
6. Because of the Relationship
7. Because of the Revelation

1. Because of the Root

¹⁸ “If the world hates you,
you know that it hated Me
before *it hated* you.

Ει ο κοσμος υμας μισει
γινωσκετε οτι εμε
πρωτον υμων μεμισηκεν

¹⁸ “If the world hates you,

Ει ο κόσμος υμας μισει

If is a first class conditional sentence and assumes the statement to be true.

So, since the world hates you.

This speaks of an assumed reality. It is self evident that the world hates Christian

To understand this we need to explain the terms.

First — **-world** — **κόσμος-**
 kósmos (literally, "something ordered") – properly, an "ordered system" (like the universe, creation); the world. [The English term "cosmetic" is derived from [2889](#) / kósmos, i.e. the order ("ensemble") used of treating the face as a whole.]
 as in Greek writings from Homer down, ornament, decoration, adornment:
 . the world, i. e. the universe

1. world - earth
2. world - creation
3. world - people
4. world - gentiles

5. The world in John's Gospel is the system of organized society (of unbelievers) hostile to God, which is under Satan's power

Blum, E. A. (1985). [John](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 326). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Carson, D. A

“the created moral order in active rebellion against God”

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 525). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

John 12:31 (NKJV)

31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 14:30 (NKJV)

30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

John 16:11 (NKJV)

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 3:1 (NKJV)

3 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 4:3–5 (NKJV)

³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world.

Therefore they speak *as of the world*, and the world hears them.

1 John 5:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV)

² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

18 “If the world hates you,

Εἰ ὁ κόσμος ὑμᾶς μισεῖ

Second—-hates

μισεῖ Pres. Act. Ind.

miseó: to hate

Original Word: μισέω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: miseó

Phonetic Spelling: (mis-eh'-o)

Definition: to hate

Usage: I hate, detest, love less, esteem less.

3404 miséō – properly, to detest (on a comparative basis); hence, denounce; to love someone or something less than someone (something) else, i.e. to renounce one choice in favor of another.

[Note the comparative meaning of 3404 (miséō) which centers in moral choice, elevating one value over another.]

There are some who would want to minimize the word “hate” here in the text and make it a strong

dislike, or that the world doesn't like us as much as the other things in world.

They will site passages like
Luke 14:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

They will say, that is it clear from this text that we are not being ask to really hate here because we know that the Bible says that we are to love our Father and Mother and wife and children, so hate can't me real hatred.

It is true that this hatred is a comparable hatred. Our love for Christ should be so large that our love for our family would look like hate.

However, the hatred that Jesus is talking about in John 15 is not just a dislike or a lesser love or lesser like.

It may begin there, but it will grow into a formidable hostility and emotional severe hatred. A destesting. A despising.

To prove that this is not just a battle of the lexicons, an academic exercise, all you have to do is

look at the response of the world to Christ and His disciples.

They were rejected, despise, tortured, beaten, excommunicated, crucified, beheaded, and stoned to death.

That is not a result of you not being liked on Facebook.

There is real animosity and fomenting hatred that produces this reaction

So again, this speaks of an assumed reality. It is self evident that the world hates Christian

Jesus warns of this time and time again,

Matthew 10:21–22 (NKJV)

²¹ “Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.

²² And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My

name's sake. ¹⁰ And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Luke 6:22 (NKJV)

²² Blessed are you when men hate you,
 And when they exclude you,
 And revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil,
 For the Son of Man's sake.

Luke 6:25–26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Woe to you who are full,
 For you shall hunger.
 Woe to you who laugh now,
 For you shall mourn and weep.
²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
 For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

The reason for this hatred is the Root. This is the source, The Cause. The foundation.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you,
 you know that it hated Me
 before *it hated you.*

Ει ο κοσμος υμας μισει
 γινωσκετε οτι εμε
 πρωτον υμων μεμισηκεν

εμε Me is first, in priority,

it hated Me Perf Act Ind.

Hath hated (μεμισηκεν [*memisēken*]). Perfect active indicative, “has hated and still hates.”

Robertson, A. T. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 15:18). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

This reality that Jesus has been hated and the world continues in hate can be easily proven from scripture.

John 1:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

John 7:7 (NKJV)

⁷ ...t it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

John 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Jesus was not hated because he did miracles, whether he walked on water, made the water wine, fed the 5 thousand or healed the sick and raised the dead.

The loved him for that, I mean after all, what more could you ask for than a perpetual welfare state of free food and free healthcare that really did heal and the funeral business would go belly up.

Because of popularity through miracles, in fact the crowds grew to 1000s Luke 12: 1 says that the crowd grew to 10s of thousand using the word myrias, the Greek for 10,000

It wasn't what he did that bothered them. It was what He said.

Everything would have been fine and the love would have flowed, and He would have been well thought of by the people and the politicians if he just would have kept his mouth shut.

When he spoke, He exposed their sin and hypocrisy. He confronted the bankruptcy of a religious system that was leading people to hell.

He basically said what Paul said in Philippians 3, that all there religious zeal and involvement was a pile of manure.

He could have just said,

Listen guys, I know you are sincere, and we all believe in the God of the Old Testament, We all believe that God created everything in six literal 24 hr days, we all believe in a literal Adam and that God gave the law to Moses. We all believe the laws concerning Sacrifices and sabbaths. So just accept what I say as one of many things God has said. I just another way to heaven.

After all y'all are so committed, and willing to stand for the law of Moses and the temple.

Lets just get along. We can win many more by not being so divisive and strong headed and opinionated.

Why be concerned about all those jots and tittles. This idea of being so concerned over the details of doctrine don't matter. Just so long as we can all say we love God and love our neighbor and try to keep the ten commands, all will be fine.

The reason that Jesus was so hated is 2 fold.

1. His righteous life
2. His righteous words.

Both confronted a sinful compromising world.

And if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you will have the same reaction as Jesus did.

1 Peter 4:1–4 (NKJV)

4 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. ³ For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. ⁴ In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*.

The ultimate reason for the world's hatred of Jesus is that he testifies that its deeds are evil (7:7).
Christ's followers will be hated by the same world, partly because they are associated with the one who

is supremely hated, and partly because, as they increase in the intimacy, love, obedience and fruitfulness depicted in the preceding verses, they will have the same effect on the world as their Master.

Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 525). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

The World hates you.....

1. Because of the Root
2. Because of the Residence

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.

ει εκ του κοσμου ητε ο κοσμος
αν το ιδιον εφιλει οτι δε εκ του
κοσμου ουκ εστε αλλ εγω
εξελεξαμην υμας εκ του κοσμου
δια τουτο μισει υμας ο κοσμος

If you were of the world, --and your not.

second class conditional if and it is not true.

Our Birth

John 3:3 (NKJV)

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

again,

anóthen: from above

Original Word: ἄνωθεν

Part of Speech: Adverb

Transliteration: anóthen

Phonetic Spelling: (an'-o-then)

Definition: from above

Usage: (a) from above, from heaven, (b) from the beginning, from their origin (source), from of old, (c) again, anew.

a. **from above, from a higher place:** ἀπό ἄνωθεν (Winer's Grammar, § 50, 7 N. 1), [Matthew 27:51](#) (Tdf. omits ἀπό); [Mark 15:38](#); ἐκ τῶν ἄνωθεν from the upper part, from the top, [John 19:23](#). Often (also in Greek writings) used of things which come from heaven, or from God as dwelling in heaven: [John 3:31](#); [John 19:11](#); [James 1:17](#); [James 3:15, 17](#).

1 John 4:2–6 (NKJV)

² By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, ³ and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

⁴ You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵ They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. ⁶ We are of God.

We are called aliens, sojourners, pilgrims. This is our temporary place, we are just passing thru.

We are called on to live apart from this world.

To detach from this place and not allow it to affect us.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you

may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

James 1:27(NKJV)

²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

A Concern and a warning needs be inserted right here,

We are rapidly seeing the church conform to the the world.

The reason that there is not more hatred and persecution of the church is because the church looks like, acts like and follows after the world.

As far as believers lives,

There is more of a commitment to happiness than holiness

Christians are more apt to be disobedient that devoted disciples

As far as the church is concerned

Churches are more like theaters than temples

The worship is man centered rather than God centered

The audience is the unchurched rather than heaven.

The modern church is more like a circus than Christ

We have allowed our church to be squeezed into the mold of the world.

We are more concerned with being liked than being loyal to God.

Im convinced the church has believed the lie of Satan that says the way you win the world is to wine and dine the world.

Believers aren't persecuted and hated as much because they don't live the life Christ called us to live and most commonly, they don't speak up on behalf of Christ,

too worried they will offend.

Hence, we have a lame church that entertains the saints while the world crashes and burns on its way to hell.

We must not conform to the world, but we must confront the world

The executioners undressed Hus and tied his hands behind his back with ropes, and his neck with a chain to a stake around which wood and straw had been piled up so that it covered him to the neck. Still at the last moment, the imperial marshal, Von Pappenheim, in the presence of the Count Palatine, asked him to save his life by a recantation, but Hus declined with the words

"God is my witness that I have never taught that of which I have been accused by false witnesses. In the truth of the Gospel which I have written, taught, and preached I will die to-day with gladness." There upon the fire was kindled with John Wycliffe's own manuscripts used as kindling for the fire.

With uplifted voice Hus sang, *"Christ, thou Son of the living God, have mercy upon me."* Among his dying words he proclaimed, *"In 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed."* His ashes were gathered and cast into the nearby Rhine River.

Almost exactly 100 years later, in 1517, **Martin Luther** nailed his famous 95 Theses of Contention (a list of 95 issues of heretical theology and crimes of the Roman Catholic Church) into the church door at Wittenberg. The prophecy of John Hus had come true!

As Martin Luther did that day he stood at the Diet of Worms,

He stood up against a world of religion and ritual a system of Popes and powers that had the ability to take his life

and when ask to recant his writings, he said

“I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other, God help me.”

We have enough cowardly conformed Christians to fill stadiums 10 fold.

What we need is more Courageous converted Christians

to live like Christ and speak like Christ no matter what the cost.

The New Testament disciples turned the world upside down because they counted their life as dispensable for the Gospel.

We have a different set of values, affections and loves and as a result we don't fit in. We don't have the same likes and dislikes,

Our view of God is different

Our view fo the Bible is different

Our view of sin is different

Our view of Heaven and Hell is different

Our view of this world and leaders is different

Our view of sickness and death is different.

WE Are Different because we are not of this World

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own.

ο κοσμος αν το **ιδιον** εφιλει

ídios (a primitive word, NAS dictionary) – properly, uniquely one's own, peculiar to the individual. [2398](#) / ídios ("uniquely one's own") is "stronger than the simple possessive pronoun ('own'). This emphatic adjective means 'private, personal' " (WS, 222).

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.

The world is a society of rebels, and therefore finds it hard to tolerate those who are in joyful

allegiance to the king to whom all loyalty is due. Christians *do not belong to the world*, not because they have never belonged, but because, Jesus avers, *I have chosen you out of the world* (cf. notes on 6:70–71; 15:16). Former rebels who have by the grace of the king been won back to loving allegiance to their rightful monarch are not likely to prove popular with those who persist in rebellion. Christians cannot think of themselves as intrinsically superior. They are ever conscious that by nature they are, with all others, ‘objects of wrath’ (Eph. 2:3). But having been chosen out of the world, having been drawn by the Messiah’s love into the group referred to as the Messiah’s ‘own’ who are still in the world (13:1), their newly found alien status makes them pariahs in that world, the world of rebels.

Carson, D. A. (1991). [*The Gospel according to John*](#) (p. 525). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

The emphatic use of the pronoun *egō* (I) and the reflexive sense of the middle voice verb translated **chose** shows that Jesus chose them

for Himself. All credit for the disciples' salvation belongs to Him (cf. John 15:16).

The doctrine of election silences human pride. Paul reminded the Ephesians that God “chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.... to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved” (Eph. 1:4, 6). To the Romans he wrote, “Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law” (Rom. 3:27–28). In the next chapter he added, “If Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God” (4:2).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2008). [*John 12–21*](#) (p. 172). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

Voddie Baucham

Suffering is common for all. However, persecution (which is a form of suffering) can be avoided. All you have to do is compromise.

