

**Text:** Various

**Title:** Why Does the World Hate Christianity?

**Truth:** The world hates Christianity because it hates God and loves sin.

**Date/Location:** Wednesday March 7, 2021 at FBC

## Introduction

The title speaks of the world's hatred toward Christianity. This is just a way to introduce the larger question of why non-Christians act the way they do toward Christians and toward God. Why do they despise Christians and hate God? Why do they hate the message of the gospel? I might be oversimplifying a little bit, but my title could just as easily have been written this way: "Why People Hate Christians." After all, the world is people.

I am *not* thinking here of legitimate reasons for the world to be upset at Christians. For instance, 1 Peter 2:20 tells us that it is no credit to us if we sin and are treated harshly. It is when Christians are hated *for being Christian* or *for doing Christian things* that I am thinking about in this message. Of course if you do dumb stuff, you should be spanked!

The world is a system. It is the culture, mores,<sup>1</sup> desires, priorities, values, and ways of life of the peoples of the world. There are variations, of course, throughout the world. However, there are similarities across national boundaries that are evident because of the common lot of human nature and sinfulness. We see it especially in the sexual revolution where abortion, homosexuality, and transgenderism are sweeping the globe.

When I speak of the world or "it" I really refer to this conglomeration of culture and people who operate according to the culture.

## I. The Role of People

I will list the reasons I find given in the Bible for why non-Christians dislike Christians so much. We start with...

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<sup>1</sup> The essential or characteristic customs and conventions of a community.  
All Scripture is from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

A. **John 3:19** "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.

The light is a metaphor for Jesus and His holiness. He came, but people do not desire the light (righteousness). They like the darkness better. Darkness represents that which is apart from God, that which is morally wrong, that which is evil. Contrast this with Christians, who desire to walk in the light (1 John 1:7).

The reason they like the darkness better than the light is because their deeds are evil. People desire to be idolaters, to use God's name blasphemously, to dishonor their parents, to murder, to steal, to commit adultery and all kinds of other sexual sins, to covet, and to lie to cover it all up.

B. According to **John 3:20**, their practice of evil things causes them to hate the light and to avoid coming to it, because if they came to it, they would be exposed in their wrongdoing.

C. The opposite response is found in people who come to the light. They want to do what God calls them to do. They know that Jesus is speaking rightly (**John 7:17**). They are the seekers of God, but no one in their natural state seeks after God (**Romans 3:11**).

D. **John 7:7** says that the world hates Jesus because he preaches that it does evil. When we echo His message that all people have a damaged, sinful, bad nature, they hate us for that. They like to think that people are basically good, with only a few bad apples in the bunch, or, perhaps, a few who have been twisted by bad circumstances.

E. The world hates Christians because it hates Jesus. **John 15:18** reports Jesus saying, "If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you."

F. Those who hate Christ also hate God the Father (**John 15:23**). Naturally, they will hate things associated with God. They hate the idea of creation, for example. They hate the idea of holiness and the constraints it demands of their behavior. They hate being told they cannot "love whomever they wish however they wish." They hate people who love the things of God.

This probably all sounds very strong, even unrealistic. There are many who kind of mind their own business and don't push their opposition against God. But in the hearts, I wonder what we would find. Or, if we would see a good dose of common grace working to restrain the evil of this group of humanity. But there are leaders, who rise to the position of leadership because of their desires and abilities, who are openly hateful of Christians.

- G. They hate Jesus and His followers despite the overwhelming evidence that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God (**John 15:24**).
- H. John 15:25 adds that "They hated Me **without a cause.**" This quotes Psalm 69:4, where the Psalmist King David says that the people hated him without a cause. They wrongfully were his enemies because there was no valid reason for them to hate him. He had done nothing wrong to them.
- I. There are other factors. One that comes to mind is that people are wary of what they do not understand. This makes them more likely to lash out against it in irrational ways. They do not understand the requirement of God to gather for worship, so they think we are being selfishly irresponsible in spreading a deadly disease during the pandemic.

## II. The Role of the Devil

- A. Revelation 12:17 speaks of a future behavior by Satan—going after God's people when he gets frustrated that God is protecting Israel. I believe this behavior will at that time be nothing new. It is just an extension of a pattern that Satan has maintained for millennia. He is a deceiver, liar, thief, murderer, hater, and destroyer.
- B. His followers are just like him (John 10:10). False shepherds lead people astray. False religion is set up by Satan and his followers to oppose God (Rev. 2:9 for example).
- C. See other examples like Job 1:9, Zech. 3:1, the temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4, Luke 4), 2 Cor. 2:11, 11:14, Ephesians 6:11, 1 Thess. 2:18, Rev. 12:9.

## Conclusion

Do not be surprised when the world hates you. Why?

1. It is led by Satan.
2. It hates Jesus first. He was the first in the New Testament era to bear their hatred.
3. It hates righteousness.
4. It loves sin and darkness.
5. It does not seek the things of God.
6. It hates God the Father.
7. It hates Jesus without cause.

The current “cancel culture” rage is just another manifestation of what we have talked about here. Be at ease, however, dear Christian, because we have nothing to worry about. Jesus was already cancelled 2000 years ago when Israel professed they had another king, and the Romans worked a terrible justice on Him and killed Him on cross.

We are in Christ, so we have already been cancelled too. What to do then? We just keep on living for Jesus and ministering for Him without worry. We are not in a popularity contest. We know the world hates us, and has already cancelled us. That ship has already sailed. So we resolve ourselves to live for God and ignore the hype. Preach Christ. People need to know the Lord before they die.

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