

Hated without cause!

Introduction

Jesus' words in John 15vs18ff are a salutary reminder that the world at large is hostile to Jesus and His followers. This attitude of hatred from the world forms a marked contrast with the love that the disciples are to have for one another (John 15vs17). What is even more striking though, is the reason for the world's animosity – the world hates the disciples because it hated Jesus first (John 15vs18). Only then does he refer to the non-conformity of the disciples as a reason why the world hates them. Strikingly enough however, it is not the world's hatred for Jesus and His disciples which is its great sin. The great sin is the rejection of God's revelation in Jesus – a sin which is akin to rejecting the witness of the Holy Spirit whose task it is to convict the world!

Study Questions

These questions help you to see clearly what the text is saying. This is a vital first step towards understanding what the text means. The questions should be answered from the text itself.

Read John 15vs18-16vs4. Answer the following questions:

1. Chapter 15vs18 implies that the world will hate the disciples. What are they to keep in mind when this happens?

2. What would in fact win the favour of the world? (John 15vs19)

3. Why can the disciples not adopt this path to avoid persecution? (John 15vs19)

