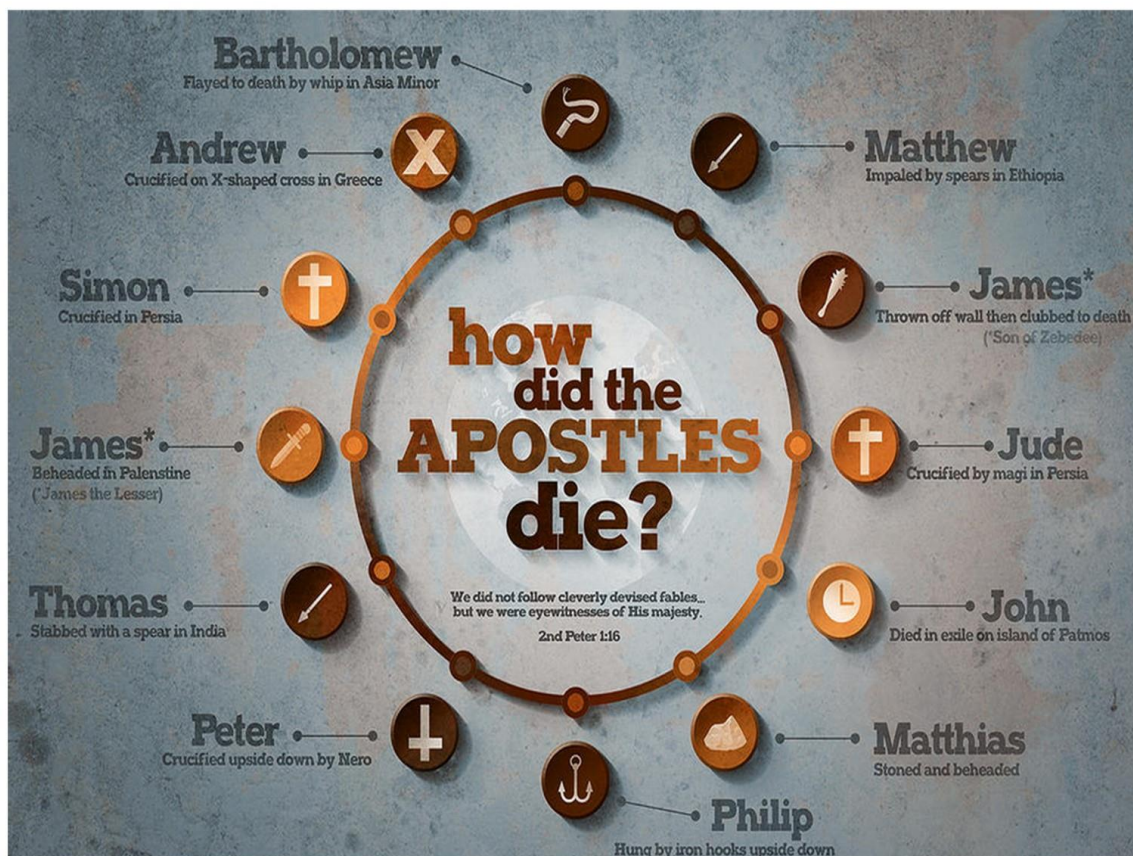


“Why the World will Hate You” (Part 1)
John 15:18 - 20

Big Idea – Jesus warned His disciples and us of the world’s hostility, animosity and hatred.

Jesus knew what the disciples faced in their futures so He warned them.



The word “world” in the Bible can mean different things depending on context: It can mean the planet, the globe – God created the world. It can mean the people, all of humanity – God so loved the world. It can mean everything in world apart from God, the world system.

1. The world hated Jesus first – vs. 18

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first."

Here in John's Gospel "world" means the evil system of sin as it is authored by Satan and acted out by depraved fallen humanity who have set themselves against Christ and His kingdom.

2. We are not a part of the world system – not part of the "in crowd".

(John 15:19a; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 4:3, 4; John 17:14-16)

John 15:19a "The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world."

As long as a person follows the fads and fashions and accepts the values of the world, he or she will "get along."

But the true Christian refuses to be "conformed to this world"

"Don't be conformed (squeezed into the mold) of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you will come to know God's will for you which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2

The believer is a "new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17)

True believers are not worried about being part of the "in crowd" because they are "in Christ" Notice what the apostle Peter said about true believers and their past lives

1 Peter 4:3 "You have had enough in the past of the evil things that godless people enjoy—their immorality and lust, their feasting and drunkenness and wild parties, and their terrible worship of idols.

4 Of course, your former friends are surprised when you no longer plunge into the flood of wild and destructive things they do. So they slander you."

Ironic isn't it that the world does not think it strange when people wreck their bodies, destroy their homes, and ruin their lives by running from one sin to another! But let a drunkard become sober, or an immoral person pure, and the family thinks he has lost his mind!

We are called the light of the world and the salt of the earth in Matthew 5:13-16, but a dark world does not want light and a decaying world does not want salt! In other words, the believer is not just "out of step"; he is out of place!

3. We are called to be the opposite of the world system.

(Ephesians 5:8 -11; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 1 John 2:15-17)

Ephesians 5:8 In the past you were full of darkness, but now you are full of light in the Lord. So live like children who belong to the light.

9 Light brings every kind of goodness, right living, and truth.

10 Try to learn what pleases the Lord.

1 John 2:15 “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.

16 For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.

17 And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

- Our life must show it

1 John 5:18 We know that God’s children do not make a practice of sinning, for God’s Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.

19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

1 John 3:12 We must not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and killed his brother. And why did he kill him? Because Cain had been doing what was evil, and his brother had been doing what was righteous.

13 So don’t be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

Philippians 2:14 “Do everything without complaining or arguing.

15 Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God’s children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world.”

- Our words must show it

Ephesians 5:11 Have nothing to do with the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them, or rebuke them.”

15 Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it.

4. The world hates the sovereignty of God.

John 15:19b “I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”

Listen to what Jesus said in His longest recorded prayer in the Bible:

John 17:14 “I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to this world any more than I do.”

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don’t worry or be afraid of their threats.

The Bible says the evil in the world will get worse and worse until the mystery of iniquity explodes in the Tribulation (2 Thessalonians 2). See, the world has no conscience for itself, we are its conscience (Matthew 5:13), and when we are taken out of here in the Rapture, all hell will really break loose because the conscience of the world (“that which restrains”) will be gone.

5. The world will persecute us because they persecuted Jesus.

John 15:20 “Remember what I told you: A servant is not greater than his master. If people did wrong to me, they will do wrong to you, too.”

Matthew 5:11-12 11 “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.

12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Jesus Christ took it willingly

1 Peter 2:21 For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone.

23 He did not retaliate when he was insulted, nor threaten revenge when he suffered. He left his case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.

In Colossians 1:24 Paul said it is our privilege to receive the blows meant for Jesus Christ in His place – in other words, the world would still like to persecute Jesus but He’s not here, so they will persecute you and me if they know we are His representatives. Does anyone know you represent Jesus?

Matthew 5:16 "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good life and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

"Am I a soldier of the Cross?"

Is anyone persecuting you right now for Jesus' sake?