

Christ-Followers Will Face Opposition

In This Series Are Learning That...

1. True believers have identifying, unmistakable characteristics.
2. Each of us should evaluate ourselves based on these marks and then ask ourselves if we are truly “remaining” in Christ.

The Scriptures

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ ²⁶When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me. ²⁷And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” - John 15:18-27

We Will Face Opposition From the World...

1. Because we are not a part of this world.

“If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world...” - John 15:19

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” - 1 Peter 2:11

We do not conform to the world’s lifestyle.

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” - Romans 12:2

We were chosen and set apart for a different kind of life and purpose.

“...but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.” - John 15:19

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” - 1 Peter 2:9

2. Because the world hated Jesus, and we are attached to Him.

“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ²⁰Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.” - John 15:18

We are to follow His example in service and in suffering.

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.” - Jn. 13:15-17

The name of Jesus is offensive to the world.

“They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me.” - John 15:21

“They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.” - Acts 5:40

It was foretold in Scripture that Jesus would be hated, and we should expect no less.

“But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me **without reason**.’” - John 15:25

“Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me **without reason** maliciously wink the eye.” - Psalm 35:19

“Those who hate me **without reason** outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.” - Psalm 69:4

3. Because the work of Jesus has made the world guilty.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³He who hates me hates my Father as well. If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father.” - John 15:22,23

By living godly lives, we too will be offensive to the world.

“The righteous detest the dishonest; the wicked detest the upright.” - Proverbs 29:27

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” - 2 Timothy 3:12

4. Because we testify of our faith along with the Spirit.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about me. ²⁷And you also **must** testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” - John 15:26,27

Sharing our faith is a must for believers.

The Spirit enables us to effectively testify to the world about Jesus.

“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8

Why Should We Know This?

“All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. ²They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. ³They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.” - John 16:1-4

1. So we will not go astray. (v. 1)
2. So we will be reminded of to whom we belong. (v. 3)
3. So we will rely on and take comfort in the Spirit. (v. 4)

“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.” - John 16:7

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