

## WHY SO UNPOPULAR?

### John 15:18-20

**Introduction:** From the very beginning of Christianity, Christians have not been very well liked, matter of fact, they have been hated, hunted, hounded and hurt through the centuries by just about every one. Even in our modern society, in our own country which was founded by Christians, on Christian principles, Christians no longer have the influence of earlier times in this country and they are becoming "nobody's" in the sight of those who are no Christians. Jesus often spoke of "loving one another" and one of the main reasons He mentioned loving one another so often was that Christians need to love one another for no one else is going to and Christians need to stick together for they are different and are a family - the family of God.

### I. WHAT CAUSES CHRISTIANS TO BE SO UNPOPULAR, EVEN HATED?

1. Christians belong to God.
  - The world is alienated from God. Although there are many different nationalities and races of people, they are still separated from God.
  - Those who become Christians, who are saved, owe it all to God and His grace and show their thankfulness for God's favor.
  - The Christians' actions and behavior because of his/her love for Jesus offends the world.
    - The world doesn't want God to favor anybody and if He does He isn't fair, they say.
  - The world's attitude toward Christians first came out with Cain when he became jealous of his brother because God had accepted Abel's offering and not his.
    - The same thing with Esau and Jacob. Although born after his twin brother, Jacob was favored by God and Esau was jealous.
    - Saul was jealous over David because the people liked him better than Saul.
    - The Jews were jealous of Jesus because God showed favoritism to Jesus.
2. Christians are separated from the World, not a part of it anymore.
  - They desire to be separated from worldly behaviors because it is too dangerous to keep doing as the world and trying to do what God commands besides Jesus commands Christians to be separate from the world and are to walk "straight and narrow."
  - In being separate, Christians condemn the world's behavior as Noah did when building the ark and as Lot did when he lived in Sodom.
  - The world loves its own! Others who don't join in the world's way will become objects of the world's displeasure.

### II. JESUS CHRIST WILL CARE OF HIS OWN ((CHRISTIANS))

1. Jesus was hated and mistreated by the world.
  - His disciples saw how He was treated.
  - If the world so mistreated Jesus, our Lord, how then can Christians escape?
  - All of Jesus's wisdom, His perfection, His love for people couldn't turn aside the world's cruel treatment, it only intensified it.

- The more like Jesus the Christian is, the more he/she will be hated by the world. It is a good test to see how close he/she is becoming like Jesus.

2. Jesus warned His followers of what to expect.

- Christians of any age should expect to be despised by the world.
- A servant (Christian) is no better than his/her master (Jesus).
- If "fore-warned," then the Christian should be "fore-armed."

### **III. CHRISTIANS, TAKE HEART**

1. Don't be afraid to bring on the world's hate.

- Nobody wants to have enemies, but if one must choose between having the world as a friend or Jesus, then it must be Jesus for the Christian.
- What is there to fear? What can the world do? It is God who should/must be feared!

2. Some Christians are enduring the world's hate even at this moment.

- Don't be sorry Christian, God will be with you.
- Do you think you will ever regret giving up the world once you are in God's heaven?
- Does not shame flood over you when you even think that for a moment you considered going back to the world?
- Christian, be assured, you will be rewarded 100 fold, even in this life.
- Therefore Christian, let the world do what it will and remember what Jesus will say to you when you see Him face to face.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. So many Christians have "backslidden" back into the world. They just couldn't let go of some of the things of the world and were drawn back into the world and it's ways.
2. Jesus said that nobody can serve two masters, one will be loved and the other hated, despised. Still many think that they can be 100% Christian and still dabble in the world's ways.
3. Remember Christian, God, the Father, God the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit are part of your family and they can take very good care of you, regardless of what the world might do or try to do to you.
4. Christians, love one another, stand beside one another, stand united with hearts entwined with Jesus' heart.