

The World does not Hate its Jesus

In the early 1970's, there was a popular rock song with the lyrics, "*Jesus is just alright with me, Jesus is just alright, oh yeah.*" Rather than talk about that song and the group that recorded it, I want to suggest that this particular line of the song describes how the world gets along with Jesus. These words seem to conflict with Jesus' teaching that the world hates Him. How can Jesus be alright to people who are not His followers? The answer is simple, the Jesus that's just alright is a different Jesus. He is a Jesus that is not threatening to the world. To the world, Jesus is friendly, non-judgmental, inspiring, and kind. He has all the characteristics that are acceptable to them.

Jesus also taught His followers that those who hate Him will hate them also. (See John 15:18-19.) In order for the world to hate you, you have to be identified with the Real Jesus, not their made-up Jesus. If you never identify yourself as a Christian, you will never sense the world's hatred. But even if you do identify yourself as a Christian, you still may not experience what Jesus was talking about because, to many people, Jesus is merely a friendly, non-judgmental, inspiring, and kind religious leader. Jesus is just alright with them. This Jesus is not at all threatening to them. So, if you identify yourself as a follower of Jesus and do not specify which Jesus, you are not threatening to them either.

In order to experience the hatred from the world that Jesus talked about, you must identify yourself as a follower of the Real Jesus. You must help them understand who the Real Jesus is along with the things He taught. Here are just a few of the things He taught:

- *Most people are headed for hell, not heaven. (Matthew 7:13-14)*
- *If a person does not obey Jesus, they will go to hell. (Matthew 7:21-23)*
- *Unless a person is willing to die for Jesus, he can't be His disciple. (Luke 14:27)*
- *By nature, all people are evil, vile sinners, not good. (Matthew 15:19)*
- *Unless a person repents of a self-directed, autonomous lifestyle, he will go to hell. (Luke 13:1-9; 17:33)*
- *Jesus is about to come back and judge every person based upon his deeds. (John 5:28-29)*
- *Nobody can make it to heaven by trying to do good. They must come His way by believing that they deserve hell, but can be reconciled to God through Jesus' sacrificial death and righteous life. (John 14:6) All other "religious" attempts are unacceptable.*

If you explain to people that this is the Jesus you follow, then you will experience the hatred of the world. We must ask ourselves, are we ashamed of the Real Jesus? Are we afraid of what our friends and neighbors will think of us? Is there a desire to not rock the boat so that our friends will like us and not think bad things about us? The Bible says that friendship with the world is hostility toward God. (See James 4:7.)

Jesus said, "*Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes.*" (Luke 9:26). The ramifications are eternal. We must settle this in our hearts lest we find ourselves in hell later. Our friends and neighbors must know more than the fact that we are Christians. We must tell them the things Jesus taught also. Then they will know which Jesus we follow.

Those who are not ashamed of Jesus and His words will experience the hatred of the world because the Real Jesus and His words are repulsive to the world. According to Jesus, their lives are completely unacceptable to God. They must either change or end up in hell. The world's response is, "How dare you meddle in my life and judge me this way!" It is because of these things that Paul taught that only those who are suffering with Jesus (and continue suffering with Him) will be in heaven. (See Romans 8:17.)

Having said all this, let me now emphasize the great benefit of identifying ourselves with Jesus and His words. "*It was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sets apart and those who are being set apart are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren*" (Hebrews 2:10-11). As a result of His righteous life and words, Jesus suffered greatly because the world hated Him and His message. Those He is setting apart are easily distinguished from the rest of the world. They think, live and talk like Jesus. As a result, they also are suffering because the world hates them and their message. In this way, Jesus and His true followers are "all of one." They share in the same sufferings. Thus, they prove that they are "of Him." They are related to Him as family. Thus, He is not ashamed to call them brethren. They share the same life.

Note: The world's Jesus is pretty much the same Jesus as the Jesus taught by many churches these days. If you don't hear the teaching of Jesus that are mentioned in italic print above at your church, you should conclude that the leaders are ashamed of the Real Jesus and His words, friends of the world and hostile toward God. If that is the case, I advise you to leave that church immediately and find one that is not ashamed of the Real Jesus and His words.

Thomas Bear, 1/16/2019

Οὐαί μοί ἐστὶν ἂν μὴ εὐαγγελίζωμαι (Προς Κορινθίους Α 9:16)