

# Keep in Mind That They Hated Me First



John 15:18-16:4

1. It says that if you're a Christian, you should expect to be persecuted.
2. If you're a Christian and you're not being persecuted, then there's probably something seriously wrong.

1. Why should you as a Christian expect to be persecuted?

1.1. That's exactly what the world did to Jesus.

John 15:20 - Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

1. Why should you as a Christian expect to be persecuted?

1.2. As a Christian are a constant reminder to the world that its ways are wicked.

**John 15:19 - If 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.**

1. Why should you as a Christian expect to be persecuted?

1.2. As a Christian are a constant reminder to the world that its ways are wicked.

**James 4:4 - You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.**

1. Why should you as a Christian expect to be persecuted?

1.2. As a Christian are a constant reminder to the world that its ways are wicked.

**John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you [because you belong to the world], but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil.**

How do we as Christians testify that what the world does is evil?

(a) We testify to it by how we live our lives.

**1 Peter 4:3-4 - For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do - living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness...**

How do we as Christians testify that what the world does is evil?

(a) We testify to it by how we live our lives.

...orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you.



How do we as Christians testify that what the world does is evil?

(a) We testify to it by how we live our lives.

(b) We testify to it by calling the world out on its sin and saying that they need to repent.

1. Why should you as a Christian expect to be persecuted?

1.3. Because we're living in a world that thinks that they know what God's will is for the world or the way things are supposed to be run when they don't know either.

**John 16:1-3 - All this [all the things that I've told you about persecution] I have told you so that you will not go astray. They 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. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.**

2. Why don't we seem to be seeing persecution happening in Canada?

a) We could be experiencing a time of peace sent by God.

**Acts 9:31 - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.**

2. Why don't we seem to be seeing persecution happening in Canada?

- a) We could be experiencing a time of peace sent by God.
- b) Our definition of persecution might be too narrow.

“Persecution in the Bible manifests itself within a broad spectrum ranging from mildly hostile to intensely hostile actions. These actions range from ridicule, restriction, certain kinds of harassment, or discrimination on one end of the spectrum to torture, imprisonment, ostracism, or killing on the other.”

Glenn Penner

“Persecution typically arises because of a difference that comes from being a Christian that the persecutor will not tolerate. When faced with situations where it is difficult to determine whether this is a situation of persecution or general suffering, is often helpful to ask, ‘If a person had other religious beliefs or would change their religion to the majority religion of the country...

...would things get better for them? Is this persecution or group specifically suffering because they are Christians?” If the answer is “yes,” then it sees that this would be a situation where persecution is taking place.”

Glenn Penner



2. Why don't we seem to be seeing persecution happening in Canada?

- a) We could be experiencing a time of peace sent by God.
- b) Our definition of persecution might be too narrow.
- c) We might be flying too low below the radar.

2. Why don't we seem to be seeing persecution happening in Canada?

d) We might be compromising on what we believe.

e) We might be too much like the world.

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