



Belong to Jesus or Belong to the World **John 15:18-27**

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you (John 15:19—KJV).

If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you (John 15:19—NASB).

If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you (John 15:19—NRSV).

Jesus told His true disciples—ones He had chosen out of the world—some sobering facts that will help all His faithful followers around the world. First, remember that Jesus still chooses His followers out of the world to become His loving friends and devoted disciples. Second, remember that Jesus' true disciples do not belong to the world—they belong to Jesus—therefore the world hates them. Third, to understand the world in which they live, the followers of Jesus must remember that the world still hates and persecutes Jesus' followers. Why the hatred? Jesus said that those who persecute His followers do not know the Father who sent Him into the world. Even worse, Jesus said they hate the Father

and Him. Those of this world saw, heard, and without cause crucified Jesus because they hated the Father, Jesus, and His disciples. If we understand these facts, then we will know some of the reasons those of this world believe and act as they do. Fourth, those who think, speak, and act as Jesus and His first disciples acted should expect the same reaction of hatred from the world. They will be hated by the world because the chosen followers of Jesus do not belong to this world. Fifth, remember if you follow Jesus, it is because Jesus chose you and sent the Spirit of Truth to live within you, so you could be a good witness for the Him whenever you tell others about Him—some will listen, believe, and love Him.

Thinking Further

1. The world hated Jesus before it hated His disciples. Does the world still hate Jesus and His disciples? Give one reason why you think as you do.
2. What must you do for the world to love you as its own?
3. In what ways are or can Christians be persecuted where you live today?
4. What reason or reasons did Jesus give for the persecution of Christians?
5. When someone hates Jesus who else do they hate? What word in the law did and do these haters fulfill?