

## Why Does the World Hate Us?

**John 15:18-25**

**May 31, 2028**

Why does the world hate us? What is “soft persecution?”

The world hates God and therefore they hate His children.

Why is Jesus hated? What did He do to provoke such anger?

How can we define the world?

### **The World Loves Its Own v. 18-19**

To be hated by the world is a good thing.

The world sometimes has probable cause to hate Christians.

Yet, Christians are still hated even when they do the right thing.

This fallen world hates God and you represent God.

But, if you live, think and act like the world, the world will love you.

### **The World Hates Jesus and His Father v. 18, 20, 23, 25**

Fallen man hates God. Let that truth sink in.

Why does the world hate God? Because He is holy, He is good.

There is no legitimate reason to hate God. (John 3:19-20)

“They hated me without a cause.” (Psalm 35:19 and 69:4)

### **The World Has No Excuse for Their Hatred v. 22, 24**

All men are without excuse for truth has been plainly given to them.

Jesus exposes their sin. v. 22

Hatred in the face of contrary evidence. v. 24

Christians are living witnesses to a better way of life.

They persecuted the Master, they will persecute His followers.

Where does the battle rage today?

It is much safer as Christians simply to remain silent.

Comfort for living witnesses in a hostile world.

### **Meditation**

Life is in the details. Listen to C. S. Lewis describe how our small, day-to-day decisions matter. “Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.”

While we fret the big decisions—jobs, family changes, retirement—the action is in the endless small ones.

This morning, I woke up and had to decide between exercise and a leisurely cup of coffee. I chose coffee. Then other decisions followed. Is it necessary to take a shower and be rushed, or should I rely on the room deodorizer in my office? Do I clean up some of my morning mess, or should I tell my wife I will clean up when I get home, which I probably won’t? And what about reading Scripture? Where will that fit into my day? Ugh, I can hear the refrain about the value of morning devotions in my head. As I make the short drive to CCEF, do I tolerate a little grumbling because I had to stop for a long, slow train, or do I confess my grumbling?

I am only an hour into my day, still on autopilot, and I have yet to get online—then the decisions will really come fast and furious. Hundreds of other judgments and moments of discernment are to come before lunch. Though I am barely aware of them, their cumulative effect is what constitutes my personal character—they are me—and the judgments will affect many others.

Ed Welch