

SHOULD CHRISTIANS SPEAK OUT?

By Mike Exton

Jesus Christ told His disciples that if the world hated & persecuted Him (they did!) then it would hate and persecute His true followers (John 15:18 & 15:20). But WHY? WHY would the world hate genuine Christians? For the same reason of course that the world hated Jesus (since true Christians are to emulate their Savior). But why did the world hate Jesus? Let's let Jesus answer that: "The world... hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil" (John 7:7). So if we are following in Christ's footsteps, we (just like Christ Himself) would be hated and persecuted for telling the world that its ways are evil.

Another Scripture that reminds us of our responsibility to speak out concerning the evil in this world can be found in the book of Isaiah: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isaiah 58:1). Unfortunately, though, when we speak out against the wicked ways of this world, the world does not take kindly to it. As a result, they will often hate us. But take heart, the world hated Christ first! "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18).

Jesus also told His followers: "WOE TO YOU when all men speak WELL of you, for so did their fathers to the FALSE prophets" (Luke 6:26). But why did people speak highly of the false prophets and *not* God's true prophets? Because the FALSE prophets would tell the people what they wanted to hear. They would tell them comforting words. They would tell them that their deeds were good and pleasing to God.

The soothing words that rolled off the tongues of the false prophets were in sharp contrast to the true prophets of God, who would *continually plead with the people to REPENT of their evil ways*. But unfortunately people don't like being told that their deeds are wicked; that they need to change their ways. And as a result they will hate and even persecute those who do. And this is why the true prophets in the Old Testament were hated & persecuted, and why the apostles of Christ were also hated & persecuted. And that's exactly why Jesus Christ was hated and persecuted, and why FAITHFUL followers of Jesus today (who are following in Christ's footsteps) would also be hated and persecuted.

Matthew 5:11-12

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely [Homophobe! Islamophobe! Xenophobe! Racist! Bigot! Hater!] for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the [true] prophets who were before you.

Luke 21:17

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.

Luke 6:22

Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil... [Islamophobe! Homophobe! Xenophobe! Hater! Bigot! Racist!].

John 15:20

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...

Luke 6:26

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets (NKJ).

You are in trouble when everyone says good things about you. That is what your own people [your ancestors] said about those prophets who told lies (CEV).

Isaiah 58:1

Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

John 7:7

The world... hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

John 15:18

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.

Hebrews 1:9

...[Jesus Christ] ...loved righteousness and hated lawlessness.

1 John 3:13

Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

Revelation 2:6

But this [is a good thing] you have, that you hate the [evil] deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord is to HATE EVIL...

Psalms 97:10

You who love the Lord, HATE EVIL!...

John 15:19

If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

John 17:14

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

1 Corinthians 2:15

But he who is spiritual [a deeply converted Christian] *judges* all things...

John 8:44 (MSG)

“If God were your father,” said Jesus, “you would love me, for I came from God and arrived here. I didn’t come on my own. He sent me. Why can’t you understand one word I say? Here’s why: YOU CAN’T HANDLE IT. *You’re from your father, the Devil, and all you want to do is please him.* He was a killer from the very start. He couldn’t stand the TRUTH because there wasn’t a shred of TRUTH in him. When the Liar speaks, he makes it up out of his lying nature and fills the world with lies. I arrive on the scene, tell you THE PLAIN TRUTH, and you refuse to have a thing to do with me. Can any one of you convict me of a single misleading word, a single sinful act? But if I’m telling the TRUTH, why don’t you believe me? Anyone on God’s side listens to God’s words. *This is why you’re not listening—because you’re not on God’s side.*”

John 8:44 (NLV)

“The DEVIL is your father. You are from him. *You want to do the sinful things your father, the devil, wants you to do.* He has been a killer from the beginning. The devil has nothing to do with the TRUTH. There is NO TRUTH in him. It is expected of the devil to lie, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Mark 7:8 (NIRV)

“You have let go of God’s commands. And you are holding on to *teachings that people have made up.*”

Mark 7:8 (CEV)

“You *disobey* God’s commands in order to obey what *humans have taught.*”

Ezekiel 33:1-6

Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. **BUT IF THE WATCHMAN SEES THE SWORD COMING AND DOES NOT BLOW THE TRUMPET, AND THE PEOPLE ARE NOT WARNED, AND THE SWORD COMES AND TAKES ANY PERSON FROM AMONG THEM, HE IS TAKEN AWAY IN HIS INIQUITY; BUT HIS BLOOD I WILL REQUIRE AT THE WATCHMAN’S HAND.**’”

For more information concerning this topic please read my booklet entitled:

**BIGOTRY
ARE YOU INTOLERANT? ANGRY? FULL OF HATE?
ARE YOU A HOMOPHOBE? ISLAMOPHOBE? XENOPHOBE?**

Mike Exton (April 9, 2016)