**Living Theology Friends1708**

**Leon L. Combs B.S., M.A., M.Div., Ph.D.**

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 **“Hated by the World”**

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The world hates you if you are really a Christian:

***John 15:18-19*** *If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 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.*

***1John 3:13*** *Do not be surprised, brethren, if the world hates you.*

The main reason the world hates Christians is the exclusive nature of Christianity as noted by the following five points.

**1.)** Christians know that the only way to God is through Jesus:

**John 14:6** *Jesus \*said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

This statement by Jesus forms the ultimate foundation for a true philosophy of life. Jesus did not just claim to know the way, the truth, and the life but He **is** the way, the truth, and the life. He did not give a recipe to be followed for a successful life here and beyond, but He stated that He **is** the answer to all human problems. The answer given by Jesus is a relationship with Him and not any worldly philosophy. The response by Jesus was not just that of a teacher who has determined the truth of life but He stated that He **is** the Master of life. The statements by Jesus provide what everyone seeks:

* Since He is the only one with a relationship to the Father that is not marred by any sin, He is the only **way** to the Father.
* He is the **truth** because He is the only source of a relationship that can lead to a comprehensive understanding of life that consists of many ups and downs in human experiences.
* He is the **life** because He was not subject to death but made it subject to Him and all who have a relationship with Him will experience the same victory.

Jesus is the only revelation of God in human form and the only representative of humanity to God. Therefore the revelation of Jesus that He is the only path to the Father is not arrogance but a statement of fact since He is the only Son of God. This statement that Jesus is the only way to the Father is offensive to the world for it presents the exclusive nature of Christianity. Paul also states that Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15). God’s divine nature cannot be completely imaged physically, but as much as Jesus’ disciples had an experience with Jesus they also had an experience with God the Father.

**2.)** The only way to come to Jesus is if the Father grants, or enables it:

**John 6:65** *And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father*

John reveals the statement by Jesus that the Father enables His people to come to Jesus. This enabling power is what is referred to as faith. A person without this enabling power cannot believe Jesus and come to Him to serve Him as His disciple forever. None of those who come to Jesus in faith will be rejected but will always be kept by the power of Jesus.

**3.)** The only way to Jesus is if the Father draws someone:

**John 6:44**

*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

The word “draw” indicates a strong pulling such as is used in describing the drawing of water from a well (with no assistance by the water!). Jesus then promises again to rise up the ones on the last day who are drawn to Him by the Father and their salvation is permanent. Again this should give the Christian great peace as he knows that even though he will one day physically die, Jesus will give him a resurrected body on that last day when Jesus comes again.

**4.)** The world often claims that everyone is a child of God. Nobody can become a child of God based upon their heritage, their actions, or their choices, but only by the action of God to cause the person to be born again (John 3:3; 7):

***John 1:12-13 NASB*** *But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name (Jesus), who were born,* ***not of blood*** *nor of the* ***will of the flesh*** *nor of the* ***will of man****, but of God.*

**5.)** Another reason for the world to hate Christians is that Christians claim to know the truth.

***John 18:38*** *Pilate \*said to Him, "What is truth?"*

This verse is taken from when Jesus began to explain to Pilate the truth behind His mission on earth. Pilate was not interested in philosophical arguments and he obviously had not been given faith to perceive truth (1 Cor 2:14). The world 2000 years later still cannot generally grasp the truth to which Jesus refers. Today many people ask the same question asked by Pilate in a probably sarcastic tone: “What is truth?” To them truth is relative, which means it changes. If truth is relative to each person then there is no such concept as absolute truth. This relativity concept is polluting our country and our churches and is the reason so many people are intolerant toward Christianity for it claims to echo the words of Jesus Christ: *“He has come into the world, to testify to the truth.”* (John 18:37). There is only one truth and it is the reality as claimed by Jesus. Standing before Pilate was the incarnate truth and he could not see it!

In summary, we see that the only way to the Father is through Jesus, the only way to Jesus is if the Father enables it and draws someone to Jesus, only those who believe by faith in Jesus are children of God, and only Christians know the truth of the universe. Many would be attracted and follow Jesus when He was doing miracles, but only those who could accept the reality behind the signs could be counted as His true disciples. Those who quit walking with Him in the face of worldly persecutions reveal that they were never of Him as also noted in a church situation: “*They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.”* (1 John 2:19)

Christians can expect to be rejected by those who reject Jesus. I pray that you are a disciple of Jesus Christ and can take comfort that the world hates you!