

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

The Rebellion Against the Rebellion Should We Expect Rejection?

Week of May 17, 2020 A.D.

Everybody wants to be liked by others. Yet, as the old expression goes, “If everybody likes you, then you probably don’t have any strong convictions.” Followers of Christ should have strong biblical convictions. Therefore, Christians can anticipate rejection. Let us talk about it in this lesson.

Read John 15:18 – 16:4

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Everybody wants to be liked by others. Yet, as the old expression goes, if everybody likes you, then you probably don’t have any strong convictions. Followers of Christ should have strong biblical convictions. Therefore, Christians can anticipate rejection.”
2. Read verse 18. Please state evidence from the Bible to confirm that the world hated Jesus. Why did the world hate Jesus? Did Jesus try to seek the approval of (a) the religious leaders? (b) the governmental officials? (c) people in general? If not, why not? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
3. Please state evidence from the current world news, national news, and local news to confirm that the world continues to hate Jesus. In your opinion, why don’t they refer to the Bible teaching of Jesus when they report the news? Should they? Please explain.
4. Is it paranoia or realism for a Christian to anticipate rejection and/or resentment from other people when the Christian mentions the teachings of the Bible in a discussion of current events? Please explain.
5. Read verse 19. What does Jesus mean by the words “belong to the world”? Please state the evidence that you would give to Jesus to support the argument that you personally do not belong to the world. Please state: (a) the evidence that the world does “love you as it’s own” and (b) the evidence that the world does not love you as its own? How do you feel about those answers?

6. Please analyze and discuss this statement: "Whether people realize it or not, each person has a 'worldview' or overall perspective from which that person sees and interprets the events of life."
7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A follower of Christ should have a world-view which compels them: (a) to study the Bible daily; (b) to physically and verbally respond to news events in a way which pleases God; and (c) to meet with fellow Christians weekly for worship of Christ."
8. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "In almost every area of life, there is compelling evidence that the American church is (a) seeking the approval and favor of God and (b) standing in opposition to the ways and values of the world system."

Read John 15:20-23

9. Is it possible for a person to be ambivalent to the teachings of Jesus? If not, why not? If so, what are some of the results of that ambivalence? Please explain your answers.

Read John 15:26-27

10. Who is the Counselor? Is the Counselor sent by Jesus (i.e. the Son) or is the Counselor sent by the Father? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
11. Do the names "Counselor" and "Spirit of truth" indicate two distinct roles of the Holy Spirit? If so, what are those roles? If the Holy Spirit testifies about Christ, then why must the disciples (and we) also testify about Christ? Please explain.

Read John 16:1-4

12. Are these verses applicable to American Christians (a) today? and/or (b) in the future? Is the Holy Spirit speaking to you every day? What is the Holy Spirit telling you to do in response to what is happening in America today? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Consider: In many respects, the church in America has experienced a comfortable existence within our society. Is this because of God's unmerited favor? Is this because the American church has been less than faithful in its obedience to Christ? Ask the Counselor – the Spirit of truth – to give to you the correct answers and then faithfully and courageously do what He tells you to do.