

John 15:18-25 - The Hatred of God

Intro – Hating God is an unusual subject for a sermon. The greatest commandment is to love God... Man's chief duty is to love God, but his chief defect is in hating God. A lot more hatred of God than love Sinful man is consistent in his hatred of God. (Love=keep / sin = hate - John 14:15, 24 - 1 John 5:3)

My thesis today is startling/simple – Sinful man hates God. Jesus is God. And so when the Son of God came to sinful men, they hated Him and killed Him. But Jesus Christ is God, and death couldn't hold Him! Though (because) Jesus has proven Himself to be God by His words, His work and His resurrection, men still hate Him and refuse to believe in Him. [John 15:24, 25b, 23] The greatest hate crime is against God

Jesus is God by DECLARATION (they hated), by DEMONSTRATION, warned of ASSOCIATION (hate us)

Jesus is God by Declaration

- John 1:1-4 John 1 starts off like Genesis 1 Jesus = the Word
 - Jesus is the Eternal God (in the beginning) Heb. 13:8 Micah 5:2
 - Jesus is in *distinction* and *union* with God. (with/was) Father and Son are distinct but One
 - Jesus is the Creator Col. 1:16 Heb. 1:2 (“let there be...” that Word was Jesus)
- John 1:14 the Word became flesh
 - God the Son became the son of Mary (Luke 1:31-32, 35)
 - Col. 2:9 – fullness of Deity in bodily form Phil. 2:6-8 1 Tim. 3:16
- When God became a Man, men hated Him
 - John 1:10 He made the world but the world did not know Him
 - crime against the Creator
 - John 1:11 He came to His own....did not receive Him
 - Born King of the Jews but rejected by His own people
- God is Light but men love darkness and hate the light
 - John 1:5 darkness does not comprehend (or overcome) the Light
 - Jesus is the Light of the world John 8:12
 - John 3:19-20 darkness flees from the Light and hates the Light
 - John 7:7 the world hates Jesus because He shines light on their sin
- When Jesus declared Himself to be God they tried to kill Him
 - John 8:56-59 Jesus claimed to be the eternal I AM
 - John 10:30-33 Jesus claimed to be one with God the Father
 - John 19:7 sought the death penalty with Pilate because of His claim to Deity
- Without question Jesus is declared to be, and claimed to be, God
 - LifeWay/Ligonier (research 2020) - 30% of evangelicals believe Jesus is only a good teacher and not God. 65% believe Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God
 - Jesus is God -but a more palatable *jesus* is proclaimed because men hate the True God

Jesus is God by Demonstration

When Jesus claimed to be God by *words* -they hated Him; when He showed it by *works* murderous.

- John 5:18 Jesus healed a guy who had been ill for 38 years. Healed on the Sabbath
 - Jesus showed Himself to be the Lawgiver and Lord of the Sabbath
 - Jesus showed Himself to be the God who heals. (Ex. 15:26; Psalm 103:3)
 - They wanted to be killers of Him who is the Healer
- John 11:47-53
 - Only God has the power of life and Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead
 - Jesus clearly showed His Deity so they said He had to die
 - Jesus raised the dead so He needed to be dead (Lazarus too – John 12:10)
- John 18:6
 - Soldiers and crowd came to arrest Him and stated who they came for
 - Jesus said “I AM He” they all drew back and fell to the ground
 - Briefly pulled the veil back and they got a glimpse ? “Transfiguration”?
 - They still continued on with the arrest, conviction and execution! What hatred of God!
- John 15:24
 - No one ever spoke like Jesus or did the works that Jesus did.
 - Christ is declared to be God, claimed to be God and clearly demonstrated that He is God
 - Sinful men hate God. Jesus is God That is why they killed Him
 - They hated Him without cause and because He was God
 - The greatest hate crime man ever commits is the one against the Creator

Jesus warns His disciples of Association

God is love and His disciples must love....but Jesus warns us that the world has no love for Him or us

- John 15:18
 - The world’s first hate is to Christ the Creator. Christians do get residual hate
- John 15:19
 - We are not to expect love from the world because we are not of the world (different)
 - The world hates us because we belong to Christ (hate by association)
 - 1 John 3:13
- John 17:14 The world hates us because we are not of the world (not worldly)
 - The world hates us because we have Gods Word
 - The world hates God and His Word
 - We have been given the Word so the world hates us
 - John 14:23-24
 - Love =keep no love = not keep (hate=break)
- Consistent theme in John - God is love and God is Light but men hate the Light & don’t love God
 - Come to the Light and be embraced by the God of love
 - But don’t expect love from world