

Pastor's Pen

Are You Hated?

"The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I bear witness about it, that its deeds are evil." John 7:7

In 2017 "The Nashville Statement" was signed by a national coalition of more than 150 evangelical leaders. The statement was written affirming their beliefs on human sexuality, including that marriage is between one man and one woman and approval homosexuality is sinful. The statement says the evangelical coalition who signed it are responding to an increasingly post-Christian, Western culture that thinks they can change God's design for humans. "Our true identity, as male and female persons, is given by God. It is not only foolish but hopeless to try to make ourselves what God did not create us to be," the statement reads.

This statement was quickly denounced as hateful, homophobic, and non-Christian. Human Rights Campaign wrote,

"Hundreds of Christian leaders, pastors, theologians and advocates have denounced the vicious, anti-LGBTQ manifesto 'Nashville Statement' with a powerful statement affirming the inclusion of LGBTQ and intersex people within faith communities and broader society. The 10-point treatise, titled Christians United, holds 'that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and that the great diversity expressed in humanity through our wide spectrum of unique sexualities and gender identities is a perfect reflection of the magnitude of God's creative work.'"

So-called Christian leaders denounced what the Bible says about human sexuality. Not surprisingly, the World embraces these leaders as true Christians and that those who hold to a Biblical understanding of sexuality are not acting Christ-like.

When you share the truth of Scripture in love and tell someone they need to turn from their sin, don't be surprised if they hate you. When Jesus spoke in John 7:7, He told his half-brothers (children of Joseph and Mary) that the World could not hate them because they were part of the World. It is the same today as it was when Jesus walked the earth.

At this point in His ministry, they did not believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior, but the World hated Jesus because He exposed their deeds as evil.

The days continue to grow darker, and it is happening rapidly. In a recent Gallup poll, the question was asked, "Are gay or lesbian relations morally acceptable or morally wrong." In May 2022, 71% of Americans said it was morally acceptable. This dramatically changed from May 2021, when only 40% thought it was morally acceptable.

The World hated Jesus when He walked this earth, and they will hate you because you love Him. Jesus warns us, *"If the World hates 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"* (John 15:18-19).

Ask yourself, Christian, are you hated because of your walk with Christ or are you loved by the World?

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

Quote of the Week

*"If you follow Christ,
you shall have all the dogs of the world
yelping at your heels."
-Charles Spurgeon*

Grace Gems

If we were more like Christ
by Charles Spurgeon

"It is enough for the disciple that he be like his master." Matthew 10:25

When our Lord was on earth, what was the treatment He received? Were His claims acknowledged, His instructions followed, and His perfections worshiped, by those whom He came to bless? No; "He was despised and rejected of men." Outside the camp was His place; cross-bearing was His occupation.

Did the world yield him solace and rest? "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has no where to lay His head." This inhospitable world afforded Him no shelter: it cast Him out and crucified him.

If you are a follower of Jesus, and maintain a consistent, Christ-like walk and conversation, you must expect the same treatment from the world. They will treat you as they treated the Savior--they will despise you. Do not dream not that worldlings will admire you; or that the more holy and the more Christ-like you are, the more peaceably people will act towards you.

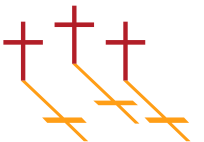
They prized not the polished gem, how should they value the jewel in the rough? "If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call those of His household?" If we were more like Christ, we would be more hated by His enemies!

It is a sad dishonor to a child of God to be the world's favorite. It is a very ill omen to hear a wicked world clap its hands and shout, "Well done!" to the Christian man. When the unrighteous give him their approbation, he should begin to look to his character, and wonder whether he has not been doing wrong.

Let us be true to our Master, and have no friendship with a blind and base world which scorns and rejects Him. Far be it from us to seek a coronet of honor, where our Lord found a crown of thorns!

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first." John 15:18

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted!" 2 Timothy 3:12



Weekly Gatherings

Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes
Ladies Class
Young Adults Young Parents
Youth Surge
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM

Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM
Men's Bible Study
1st and 3rd Saturday
Women of Grace | 9AM

Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's

Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team
and forgot to sign up, please contact the
team leader at the appropriate email
address.

Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM
Youth Study and AWANA!

Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM
Sunday School 9:30AM
Children's Church @11:00AM

Giving from service on 10/30/2022

General Offering 4,248.00
Building Fund 740.00
Uganda 165.00
Total.....5,153.00

Attendance 215
Sunday School 138
Online.....28

Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
Security-security@ghbcva.org



Grace Harvest
Baptist Church
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Grace Harvest Baptist Church

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Welcome