

SURPRISE! THE WORLD STILL HATES THE GOSPEL

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Whether 1st century or 21st century, the world still hates the Gospel. That hatred for the Gospel message became crystal clear with the assassination of Charlie Kirk and its aftermath. He was a man who shared the truths found in the Bible, and he debated anyone to prove those truths, but he did it with kindness and respect towards the other person.

When you read about Jesus' ministry, it is clear to see the hatred the Pharisees had for Him. ³ Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; ⁴ and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him. ⁵ But they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people." (Matthew 26:3-5) Satan is still using hatred to cause divisions today.

Jesus told His disciples and us about being hated. "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you." (John 15:18) The hatred the world (Satan) has for anyone who proclaims the gospel, or lives it out loud, shouldn't surprise you.

Satan's battle plan has not changed over the centuries. He uses whoever he can to intimidate Christians and silence our voice. Please do not fall for his deceptions. Since the Holy Spirit dwells in you, why do you give in to the pressures from the world? Character assassination has become a popular means to silence Christians. Just because someone says whatever about you as a Christian does not make it so. Don't cave in and be silenced.

Here is an example of courage that's needed today. ¹⁸ And when they had summoned them, they commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; ²⁰ for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." ²¹ When they had threatened them further, they let them go (finding no basis on which to punish them) on account of the people, because they were all glorifying God for what had happened;" (Acts 4:18-21)

I understand that no one wants to be insulted in the manner the world uses today. After all, words do hurt. They hurt if allowed to, so don't allow them to. Yes, it's easy to say this when you're not the one being slandered. But when we Christians respond in the same manner, how are we any different than the world? We're not. Who do Christians represent in the world? That's correct, we represent Jesus.

The battle is not against people, it's against Satan. "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12) Perhaps if this is remembered, the disdain would be directed where it should be, towards Satan. The battle is against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. How do you, as a Christian, stand up against them?

The first thing we should do is pray for guidance and courage to live boldly in the spiritual warfare we are in. Loving the people who belittle you is not easy. However, ⁴³ You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the

Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect....” (Matthew 5:43-48)

As a Christian, you are to be **in** the world, not **of** the world. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

Jesus died to fulfill the gospel. The disciples were martyred because they preached the gospel. (This doesn't include John, who died from old age.) Charlie Kirk was assassinated because he shared the truths found in the Gospel. Hundreds upon hundreds around the world have boldly lived their faith in Jesus and died because of it. We rarely hear about those people.

How has our society degraded to the point that it thinks it is acceptable to silence, by any means possible, anyone who disagrees with you? Just listen and look at all of the disrespect and displays mocking the person destroyed or murdered, and they are thrilled that the person has been destroyed. How can anyone be so cruel? One reason is that Jesus has been taken out of a lot of our society. Another reason is that not enough Christians have stood up and opposed this. Godly influences are being removed little by little, and now the world is reaping what has been sown.

Over the past weeks, a lot has been said about Charlie Kirk, both good and bad. What was done to him, as horrible as it was, has increased conversations about Jesus. All of a sudden, some have grown a backbone and are speaking out for the cause of Christ. “¹³ Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, **yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.** (I John 3:13-16 [emphasis added]) Pay special attention to the bolded part of that scripture. We need to make sure, in our disagreements and our speaking out, that we act as the scripture instructs. Some good has already come from this tragedy, and I pray that much more will come. Have a blessed week.

I Am Not Ashamed Of The Gospel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcTF2Q7up60&list=RDzcTF2Q7up60&start_radio=1