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## **Prologue - Why This Hatred Makes Sense**

Spiritual warfare is not distant. It is not only in stories of exorcism, or the struggles of missionaries far away.

It is here.

Now.

All around us.

Every day.

Every choice.

Every heart.

And yet—

we do not see it.

We imagine spiritual war is for others.

For "special" believers.

For far-off places.

But it surrounds us.

It surrounds you.

This is why the hatred of Christianity makes no sense—unless you see the war.

No other religion provokes such fury.

No other faith is mocked so sharply.

No other creed is hated so irrationally.

Why?

Because only Christianity invades Satan's domain.

Only the Gospel shatters chains.

Only Jesus dethrones the self and exposes pride.

That is why the hatred burns. That is why persecution rises. That is why even kindness, if done in His name, is despised.

This is spiritual war.
The clash of kingdoms.
The rage of darkness against light.

Read this book with that in mind. These are not just arguments. Not just cultural battles. Not just irrational hatred.

They are spiritual. They are eternal. They are the war.

# **Chapter 1 - Evil in Disguise — Why Christianity Alone Is Hated**

Life looks ordinary on the surface. Jobs. Families. Sports. School. Politics.

But under it all—there is war.

Not a war of flesh and blood. Not a war of left versus right. Not a war of governments and armies.

A war of kingdoms. Light versus darkness. Truth versus lies. Christ versus Satan.

#### The Bible tells us plainly:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." – Ephesians 6:12

That verse explains what the headlines cannot. It explains why Christianity alone is hated.

Every religion has rules. Every philosophy makes demands. Some are stricter than Christianity. Some are harsher, some are stranger.

And yet—they are tolerated. Even admired. Even celebrated.

But not Christianity.

Why?

Because Christianity doesn't just set rules.

It names sin.

It calls the heart to repentance.

It dethrones pride.

It proclaims Christ as the *only way*.

That is intolerable to the kingdom of darkness.

Satan doesn't need to fight Islam.

He doesn't rage against Buddhism.

He doesn't tremble at secular humanism.

Those may keep people distracted.

Comfortable.

Proud.

But Christianity?

It exposes the lie.

It breaks chains.

It sets captives free.

No wonder the hatred is irrational.

Jesus said it Himself:

"The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil." – John 7:7

Christianity is hated for the same reason Christ was hated.

The Bible describes evil as a lie.

A mask.

A cloak of respectability hiding rebellion.

M. Scott Peck called it "militant ignorance." People of the Lie.

The devil's children wear masks.

The devil himself appears as an angel of light.

But beneath the mask—only death.

Jesus unmasked it.
The apostles unmasked it.
The church, when faithful, unmasks it still.

And that's why darkness hates the light.

It's not about politics.
It's not about personality.
It's not about cultural taste.

It's about spiritual war. Always has been. Always will be.

The hatred of Christianity doesn't make sense—unless you see it with spiritual eyes.

Then it makes perfect sense. Because the enemy knows what's at stake.

"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..." -2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan blinds.

Jesus opens eyes.

That is the conflict.

So expect it.

Don't be surprised.

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you." – 1 John 3:13

Christianity is not offensive because Christians are rude. It is offensive because Christ is Lord.

Every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess. Every idol will fall. Every lie will be exposed.

That is the offense.

And if the church is not hated? If the world speaks well of us? If our message never offends?

We are not preaching Christ.

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." – Luke 6:26

The war is real.

The hatred is proof.

The offense is the evidence.

Darkness cannot tolerate the light.

That is why Christianity is uniquely hated.

## Reflection

Ask yourself: Does my faith ever bring offense—not because I am harsh, but because I am faithful? If the world never resists me, am I hiding the light that was meant to shine?



## A Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the reality of the war around me. Give me courage to stand in truth, even when hated. Let my life shine with love so strong and holiness so clear, that the darkness cannot ignore it. Amen.

# Chapter 2 - The Propensity to Sin — Why the World Resists God

We like to think people are good.

That deep down, we mean well.

That if given the chance, we'll choose what is right.

But Scripture says otherwise.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" – Jeremiah 17:9

Inside every man and woman is a bent. A lean away from God. A twist toward self.

Dallas Willard called it "disintegration." The parts of us—mind, body, feelings, choices—no longer align with God.

And because of that, sin is not an accident. It is natural.

We don't have to teach children to lie. We don't have to coach selfishness. We don't have to explain pride.

It comes built-in.

The Bible calls it the flesh. The sinful nature.
The old man.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." – Romans 3:23

Sin isn't just what we do. It's who we are apart from Christ.

And that's why Christianity offends. It doesn't just say we've made mistakes. It says we are sinners at the core.

That message is intolerable to pride.

Other religions flatter.

- "You can improve yourself."
- "You can rise higher."
- "You can balance your karma."

But Christianity says:

"You are dead in sin."

"For the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." – Romans 8:7

The flesh doesn't simply dislike God. It hates Him. It refuses Him. It resists Him.

That is why the gospel seems foolish.

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him..." -1 Corinthians 2:14

People don't reject Christ because He healed the sick.

Or because He fed the poor.

Or because He taught kindness.

They reject Him because He demanded repentance.

Because He said:

"Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Follow me."

That command cuts against everything the flesh wants.

Pride says:

"I am smart. I know best. I should do what I want."

The gospel says:

"You must die to self."

That is why Christianity is uniquely hated.

Because it demands the death of the false self.

The surrender of pride.

The exposure of sin.

Even many who say, "Lord, Lord," resist this.

They want the name of Christ without the surrender to Christ.

But Jesus said plainly:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord,

shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;

but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

- Matthew 7:21

It's like tryouts.

Many line up for the team.

Basketball. Cheerleading. Marching band.

But not all are chosen. Not because they weren't loud enough. Not because they didn't show up.

But because they didn't belong. They didn't prepare. They didn't commit.

So too with the kingdom. It is not works that save us. But it is works that reveal us.

Practice. Discipline. Obedience. These protect the gift. These display the truth.

The flesh resists this. The world mocks this. Satan fears this.

And so—hatred grows.

Christianity doesn't flatter human pride. It crucifies it.

That is why it offends. That is why it is hated.

## Reflection

Do I resist God's call because of pride? Am I content with saying "Lord, Lord" without surrender? Am I practicing, sharpening, and protecting the faith He has given me?



# A Prayer

Lord, expose the pride in me. Break the power of my flesh. Teach me to walk by the Spirit, not by the old man that resists You. Make me ready for Your kingdom not by my effort, but by Your grace. Amen.

# Chapter 3 - The Root of Pride — The First Sin, The Last Sin

At the center of every rebellion—there is pride.

Not ignorance.

Not accident.

Not weakness.

Pride.

It was pride that toppled Lucifer.

"I will ascend... I will exalt... I will be like the Most High." – Isaiah 14:13–14

It was pride that deceived Eve.

"You shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." – Genesis 3:5

It is pride that fuels every sin since.

Pride is the refusal to bow.

The insistence that I know best.

The determination to sit on God's throne.

It whispers:

"I am smart."

"I am right."

"I should be able to do what I want."

But the gospel says the opposite:

"You must deny yourself."

<sup>&</sup>quot;You are a sinner."

<sup>&</sup>quot;You must repent."

That is why Christianity offends.

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." – Proverbs 16:18

"God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." – James 4:6

Every sin traces back here. Adultery—"I deserve this." Greed—"I earned this." Anger—"I control this." Unbelief—"I decide this."

The root is always pride.

That is why the world hates Christianity. Because Christianity unmasks pride.

It calls sin, sin.
It exposes the lie of self-rule.
It demands surrender to the only true King.

Jesus never softened this.

"Whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." – Matthew 16:25

Pride insists:

"My life is mine."

The gospel proclaims:

"Your life is not your own.

You are bought with a price." – 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

That truth enrages the flesh.

And the flesh hates those who speak it.

The proud want applause.
The cross demands humility.
The proud want affirmation.
The cross demands repentance.

The proud want the crown. The cross comes first.

And so Christianity is hated. Not because it does harm. But because it names the root.

Because it strikes where the wound is deepest.

Because it dethrones the idol of self.

Pride was the first sin. And it will be the last.

At the end of all things, the proud will still be saying, "I know best. I don't need God."

But every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess. Every proud heart will bend.

"The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day." – Isaiah 2:11 This is the offense of Christianity. It kills pride.

It lifts Christ.

And pride hates to die.

## **Reflection**

Where is pride still alive in me? Do I still cling to control? Do I still insist on my way? Or have I bent the knee to Christ in every part of my life?



#### A Prayer

Lord, uproot my pride. Destroy every claim of self-rule. Teach me to bow willingly now, before the day when every knee will bow. Make me humble in Your sight, so that You may be exalted in my life. Amen.

#### Chapter 4 - Lord, Lord — But Not Chosen

Crowds gathered around Jesus.

They liked His miracles.

They loved His teaching.

They marveled at His power.

But He warned them.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." – Matthew 7:21

Think about that.

Not everyone who cries out "Lord."

Not everyone who sings the songs.

Not everyone who wears the cross.

Not everyone who claims His name.

Few are chosen.

It's like school tryouts.

Basketball. Football. Cheerleading.

Dozens show up.

All wear the same practice uniform.

All stand in the same line.

All shout with the same excitement.

But not all make the team.

Why?

Not because the coach is cruel.

Not because he delights in rejection.

But because only those truly prepared, truly disciplined, truly committed—prove they belong.

So it is with the kingdom of God.

This is not salvation by works. We do not "earn" a place on the team. Christ paid for our entry.

But those who belong—
those who are His—
will practice, train, and guard what was given.

Paul used the same image:

"Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.

Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible." – 1 Corinthians 9:25

The evidence of true faith is a life that trains.
That disciplines.
That protects the gift.

Not perfection. But direction.

Not flawless performance. But humble perseverance. Jesus said:

"By their fruits ye shall know them." – Matthew 7:20

Fruit proves the tree.

Effort proves the heart.

Obedience proves the love.

That's why saying "Lord, Lord" isn't enough.

Words are cheap.

Practice is costly.

The team is revealed on the court.

Not in the line at tryouts.

Many will say on that day,

"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name?

And in thy name have cast out devils?

And in thy name done many wonderful works?"

And then will He say:

"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." – Matthew 7:22–23

Those are some of the most terrifying words in Scripture.

Not strangers.

Not atheists.

Not pagans.

Religious people.

Church attenders.

Ministers even.

Rejected—because they never truly belonged.

This is why Christianity offends. Because it refuses shallow claims. It demands reality. It exposes counterfeit faith.

The world is content with appearance. Jesus demands truth.

So practice. Protect your faith. Guard your heart. Train like an athlete.

Not to earn salvation but to prove it is real.

"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." – Philippians 2:12

The coach sees through the uniform. Christ sees through the words.

And only those who are His will enter the kingdom.

## Reflection

Am I content with saying "Lord, Lord," or is my life proving that I belong to Him? Do I guard the gift? Do I practice obedience as evidence of His grace in me?



#### 🙏 Prayer

Lord, save me from shallow faith. Keep me from hiding behind words. Train me in discipline. Shape me in obedience.

Let my life bear fruit that proves I am Yours—not for my glory, but for Yours.
Amen.

## **Chapter 5 - Why Only This Faith Is Rejected**

Every religion has rules. Islam. Buddhism. Hinduism. Judaism. Even secular humanism.

They all set standards.
They all have expectations.
They all tell people how to live.

And yet—
they are tolerated.
Respected.
Sometimes even celebrated.

But not Christianity.

#### Why?

Not because it demands morality. Not because it requires discipline. Not because it has laws.

Every system has those.

Christianity is hated because it says:

- "You are a sinner."
- "Your heart is wicked."
- "You must repent."
- "You must bow to Jesus Christ alone."

That is the offense.

Other religions flatter.

"You can rise higher."

"You can purify yourself."

"You can balance your karma."

"You can work your way to peace."

But Christianity declares:

"You cannot save yourself.

You must be born again." – John 3:7

That demand enrages pride.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." – John 14:6

No other path.

No other name.

No other savior.

Exclusive.

Absolute.

Uncompromising.

And the world hates it.

This is why Christianity is mocked.

Why it is censored.

Why it is banned.

Not because it teaches kindness.

Not because it heals the sick.

Not because it feeds the poor.

But because it confronts sin.

And insists there is only one solution—

Christ crucified and risen.

#### Paul knew this:

"We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness." – 1 Corinthians 1:23

The Jews wanted signs.
The Greeks wanted wisdom.
Both wanted affirmation.
Neither wanted a bloody cross.

And so they hated it.

It's the same today.
The world admires religion.
It respects spirituality.
It tolerates philosophy.

But it despises the cross.

Because the cross declares:

"You are guilty."

"You are helpless."

"You need a Savior."

That message cannot be accepted by pride. So the world rages.

This is why other systems survive. They do not threaten the throne of self.

But Christianity topples it. It demands surrender. It enthrones Christ alone. And that is why only this faith is rejected.

# Reflection

Do I try to soften Christianity to make it more acceptable? Or do I embrace the offense of the cross, knowing it is the power of God unto salvation?



## **A** Prayer

Lord, keep me from compromise.

Give me boldness to proclaim the only name that saves.

Let me love people enough to tell them the truth even when they hate it.

Amen.

#### **Chapter 6 - The Cross Is the Offense**

The cross is everywhere. Necklaces. Tattoos. Church steeples.

So familiar, it feels harmless. Almost decorative. Almost empty.

But in the first century—
the cross was not jewelry.
It was scandal.
It was shame.
It was death.

A Roman execution stake. A place for criminals. A symbol of humiliation.

That was the tool God chose.

#### Why?

Because the cross strips away pride. It says you cannot save yourself. It says you deserve judgment. It says your sin is so serious that only death could pay for it.

That is the offense.

"We preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness." – 1 Corinthians 1:23 To the Jews—
a stumblingblock.
Because the Messiah was supposed to conquer Rome.
Not be nailed to Rome's cross.

To the Greeks—foolishness.
Because salvation through blood seemed barbaric.
Unphilosophical.

And today? Still offensive.

To the secular mind—
it is "primitive."
To the proud heart—
it is "insulting."
To the self-righteous—
it is "unnecessary."

But to those who believe—it is the power of God.

The cross says:
You are guilty.
You are helpless.
You cannot climb to God.
He had to come down to you.

That truth humiliates pride. And pride fights back.

The cross unmasks sin.

It leaves no excuse.

It leaves no boasting.

Paul said it clearly:

"God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Galatians 6:14

Other religions offer ladders.

Steps upward.

Works to earn.

Rituals to climb.

Christianity offers a cross.

A Savior lifted up.

Blood poured out.

A debt paid in full.

That is why it is hated.

Because it declares every ladder useless.

Every work worthless.

Every attempt futile.

The cross offends because it says:

"There is nothing you can do."

The proud hate that.

But the humble find life in it.

The cross is offensive—until it becomes precious.

The place of death—becomes the place of life.

The instrument of shame becomes the symbol of glory.

For those who believe, the cross is everything.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." – 1 Corinthians 1:18

This is the dividing line. The cross is where the world stumbles. Where the prideful scoff. Where the faithful bow.

And the church must never remove the offense. Never soften the blood. Never decorate away the scandal.

Because the offense of the cross is the very power of salvation.

# Reflection

Do I see the cross as a decoration—or as my only hope? Does it humble me daily? Or do I still try to climb ladders of my own making?



#### A Prayer

Lord, keep the cross ever before me.

Strip away my pride.

Silence my boasting.

Let me glory only in the blood of Christ.

And let me never be ashamed of the cross.

Amen.

# Chapter 7 - The Sanctity of Life — Written on the Heart

Every culture wrestles with morality. Right and wrong. Life and death.

But some truths run deeper than culture. They are carved into the conscience.

One of those is this: Life is sacred.

Even the hardest heart knows it. Even the most secular conscience feels it.

That's why murder shocks. Why genocide horrifies. Why injustice stirs anger.

Because somewhere inside, we know life belongs to God.

### Paul says it plainly:

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law... their conscience also bearing witness..."

- Romans 2:14–15

The law of life is written on the heart. Even without Scripture. Even without religion. But sin suppresses it. And pride twists it. And the enemy blinds it.

So we live in a culture that redefines life. Explains it away. Cheapens it. Ends it when convenient.

Abortion is defended as "choice." Euthanasia is called "compassion." Violence is justified as "rights."

But the truth remains: Life is God's. Not ours to create. Not ours to end.

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee."

– Jeremiah 1:5

"Thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb." – Psalm 139:13

God claims life before birth.

Every disabled life is His.

He breathes it.

He shapes it.

He owns it.

And that is why Christianity is hated. Because it insists:
Every unborn child is His.

Every elderly person is His. Every persecuted soul is His.

Other philosophies may debate when life begins. Or when it has value.

Or when it becomes expendable.

But Christianity declares: Life is sacred from beginning to end.

That conviction exposes the conscience. It convicts the heart. It angers the proud.

Jesus said:

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." – John 10:10

Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The war over life is the war of kingdoms.

This is why the sanctity of life is more than politics.

More than law.

More than culture.

It is spiritual war. God the Creator. Satan the destroyer.

And the church must speak.

Not with rage.

Not with slogans.

But with truth, compassion, and conviction.

Every child matters. Every person matters. Every life matters because every soul is eternal.

# Reflection

Do I see every person as sacred—made in God's image? Do I value the weak, the unborn, the elderly, the disabled, the forgotten—as much as I value myself?



Lord, teach me to honor life as You do. Forgive me for indifference. Give me courage to stand for the weak. Let me reflect Your heart for every soul, from the womb to the grave and beyond. Amen.

# Chapter 8 - Identity and God's Design — When Self Becomes God

Who am I? It's the question of our age.

Identity is everything. It defines worth. It dictates belonging. It shapes destiny.

The world says:

"You are what you feel."

"You are your desires."

"You are your own creator."

But Scripture says:

"You are made in the image of God."

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." – Genesis 1:27

Identity begins with God. Not with self. Not with feelings. Not with culture.

Male and female. Created by design. On purpose. For His glory.

This is where Christianity offends most today.

Because it dares to say:

- "You are not your own." 1 Corinthians 6:19
- "You were bought with a price." 1 Corinthians 6:20

The modern creed is autonomy.

- "My body, my choice."
- "My truth, my life."
- "My desires define me."

The gospel says the opposite.

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Your life belongs to your Creator.

Your desires must bow to Christ.

That's why identity is the battlefield.

Not just politics.

Not just culture.

Spiritual war.

#### Paul wrote it clearly:

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections:

for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another." – Romans 1:26–27

The world says:

- "This is freedom."
- "This is love."
- "This is identity."

But Scripture says:

"This is rebellion."

"This is deception."

"This is idolatry."

Because identity apart from God always becomes idolatry.

Self becomes god.
Desire becomes lord.
Feelings become truth.

This is why LGBTQ+ ideology is celebrated—and why Christianity is despised.

Because one worships self. The other bows to God.

It is not love to affirm a lie. It is not compassion to bless rebellion. It is not kindness to let people walk blind into destruction.

Truth is love.
God's design is love.
Calling to repentance is love.

Jesus showed this.
"Neither do I condemn thee:
go, and sin no more." – John 8:11

Grace and truth together. Never one without the other.

The church cannot bend here. Because to bend is to betray. To compromise is to deny the Creator. Identity is not ours to define. It is God's to declare.

And when the church says this the world hates it.

Because it touches the deepest pride. The oldest lie.

"You shall be as gods." – Genesis 3:5

But in Christ, true identity is restored. Not in pride. Not in autonomy. Not in self.

But in Him.

"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." -2Corinthians 5:17

# Reflection

Do I find my identity in Christ—or in myself? Do I define myself by feelings, success, desires, or culture? Or by the Creator who made me in His image and redeemed me by His blood?



### Prayer

Lord, silence the lies of self. Root my identity in You alone. Make me content with Your design. Let me speak truth in love never bending to culture,

never softening Your Word. Amen.

# Chapter 9 - The Exclusivity of Christ — No Other Name

In a world of many paths— Christianity dares to say: There is only one.

Not many roads. Not many truths. Not many saviors.

One.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." – John 14:6

The world loves options. Choose your philosophy. Choose your spirituality. Choose your "truth."

But Jesus leaves no options.
No back doors.
No detours.
No second opinions.

Only Him.

That is the offense.

Other religions coexist easily. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism different roads, same destination, people say. But Christianity stands alone.

Exclusive.

Absolute.

Uncompromising.

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." – Acts 4:12

The world hears this as arrogance.

But it is not arrogance.

It is truth.

It is mercy.

Because if there is only one cure, it is not cruel to say so. It is cruel to pretend otherwise.

Imagine a doctor. You are dying of poison. There is one antidote.

Would you want him to say, "Any pill will do"?

No.

Love tells the truth.

Even when the truth is narrow.

Jesus is the only antidote. The only mediator.

The only door.

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." – John 10:9

This is why Christianity is uniquely hated. Because it refuses to blend. Refuses to flatter. Refuses to affirm every way.

It declares:

All have sinned.

All need Christ.

All must come the same way.

The proud hate this.
Because it strips away excuses.
It levels every culture.
It silences every boast.

The Pharisee and the prostitute. The rich man and the beggar. The scholar and the fool.

All come by the same cross. All bow before the same King. All kneel at the same name.

The exclusivity of Christ is the equalizer of humanity.

But it is also the stumblingblock of pride.

Pluralism says:

"Believe what you want."

Humanism says:

"Save yourself."

Atheism says:

"There is no god."

Jesus says:

"I am."

That claim leaves no middle ground. You either bow or resist.

And that's why Christianity is hated. Not for being unkind. Not for being irrational.

But for being exclusive.

# Reflection

Do I shrink back from the exclusivity of Christ to seem more tolerant? Or do I lovingly and boldly declare that He alone is the way?



### Prayer

Lord, give me courage to stand on Your exclusivity.

Let me never soften Your words.

Let me proclaim boldly—

not to win arguments,

but to save souls.

For there is no other name.

Amen.

# Chapter 10 - Not Flesh and Blood — The War We Cannot See

Why is Christianity hated?
Why do people rage against it?
Why does the world mock what is good?

It makes no sense unless you see the war.

Not a war of culture. Not a war of politics. Not a war of flesh and blood.

A war of kingdoms.

Unseen.

Relentless.

Cosmic.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." – Ephesians 6:12

That one verse explains everything.

The hatred.

The irrational rage.

The lies.

The blindness.

It is not random.

It is not logical.

It is war.

Satan is called "the god of this world." – 2 Corinthians 4:4 He blinds minds.

He stirs pride.

He deceives nations.

His weapons are lies. His goal is destruction.

And the church is his enemy.

#### Why?

Because Christianity unmasks him.
Because the gospel breaks chains.
Because Christ already crushed him at the cross.

"Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." – Colossians 2:15

Satan is defeated—but not yet destroyed.

So he rages.

He hates the light.

He hates the truth.

He hates Christ in us.

And he will stir up the world to hate us too.

This is why persecution grows.

Why hatred accelerates.

Why truth is silenced.

It is not flesh.

It is not politics.

It is spiritual war.

The devil doesn't fear a compromised church.

He doesn't fear empty religion.

He doesn't fear spirituality without Christ.

But he fears the gospel.

He fears holiness.

He fears radical love.

He fears the name of Jesus.

This is why in the West—

he uses distraction, apathy, comfort.

In the East—

he uses violence, fear, persecution.

Different weapons.

Same war.

And if we forget this—

we will misread the times.

We will think Christianity is hated because of culture.

Or politics.

Or misunderstanding.

But no—

it is hated because of Christ.

Jesus said:

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." – John 15:18

The world hated Him—not for doing harm, but for speaking truth.

And if we follow Him, it will hate us too.

So put on the armor.

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." – Ephesians 6:13

Truth.

Righteousness.

The gospel of peace.

Faith.

Salvation.

The Word of God.

Prayer.

These are the weapons.

Not anger.

Not politics.

Not protest.

This war will not end until He comes. But the victory is already won.

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." -1 John 4:4

The world's hatred makes sense only here:

It is not flesh.

It is not blood.

It is war.



### Reflection

Do I see persecution and hatred as spiritual war—or do I mistake it for politics or culture? Am I living with armor on, or am I fighting the wrong battles?



## **A** Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the war around me.

Keep me from fighting the wrong enemy.

Clothe me in Your armor.

Make me stand firm in truth,

bold in love,

and strong in Christ.

Amen.

# Chapter 11 - Satan's Two Strategies — Comfort in the West, Fear in the East

Satan is cunning.

He does not fight the same everywhere.

He studies culture.

He adapts his strategy.

He strikes where it hurts most.

In the East—

he uses fear.

In the West—

he uses comfort.

Different tactics.

Same war.

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices." – 2 Corinthians 2:11



### In the East: Fear and Force

In North Korea— Christians are imprisoned.

Tortured.

Executed.

In Nigeria churches are burned. Believers are slaughtered. Faithful are driven from their homes.

In Iran, in China, in India pastors vanish.

Underground churches are raided.

Bibles are confiscated.

Why?

Because the gospel is dangerous. Because light spreads in the dark. Because Jesus breaks chains.

So Satan roars.

Through governments.

Through mobs.

Through violence.

The goal: silence. The weapon: fear.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." – 1 Peter 5:8

And yet—

the church grows.

Persecution fans the flame.

The blood of the martyrs waters the seed.

Satan's strategy of fear fails in the long run.



### In the West: Comfort and Apathy

Here the tactic shifts.

No prison.

No torture.

No mobs.

Just distraction.
Just compromise.
Just lukewarmness.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot... So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." – Revelation 3:15–16

In the West, churches are filled with programs. Christians are busy with careers. Bibles sit unopened. Hearts are entertained to death.

No fear.

Just comfort.

And Satan smiles.

Because a silent church needs no persecution. Because a distracted believer is no threat.

The weapon: apathy. The goal: compromise.

And it works.

The gospel is watered down. Truth is softened. Sin is excused. Holiness is neglected.

The church is tolerated—because it is harmless.

This is why the West sees little persecution. Not because Satan has retreated. But because he has succeeded.

## X Two Tactics, One War

Fear or comfort.
Force or apathy.
Prison or distraction.

The strategies differ.
The goal is the same:
Stop the gospel.
Silence the light.
Destroy the witness.

And yet— Christ prevails. Everywhere.

"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." – Matthew 16:18

The underground church grows.
The persecuted church endures.
The distracted church can still awaken.

Because Christ is Lord in the East. And Christ is Lord in the West.

# **Reflection**

Where has Satan attacked me most—through fear or through comfort? Have I been silenced by intimidation, or by apathy?



# A Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to the enemy's schemes.

Guard me from fear.

Guard me from comfort.

Make me bold where there is threat,

and faithful where there is ease.

Let me never be silent.

Amen.

# Chapter 12 - Hatred Accelerating — A World Against Christ

Persecution is not fading. It is rising.

Not just in one place. Not just in one culture. Everywhere.

North Korea.

Nigeria.

India.

Iran.

China.

365 million Christians today live under high levels of persecution. That's 1 in 7 believers worldwide.

It is not slowing. It is spreading.

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake." – Matthew 24:9

Jesus predicted this. And we are watching it unfold.

In the West—we face mockery.

Censorship.

Exile from culture.

In the East—

they face prison.

Violence.

Martyrdom.

Different forms.

Same hatred.

#### **A Dark Wave Sweeping the Church**

Recent data reveals the staggering scope:

- Roughly **5,000–6,000 Christians are killed annually** for their faith in recent years.
- In **Nigeria alone**, more than **62,000 Christians** have been murdered since the year 2000, often by Boko Haram, ISWAP, and Fulani extremists.
- 2023 was the worst year on record: 5,500 believers killed, over 2,000 churches attacked, and 4,500 Christians detained or imprisoned.
- Altogether, more than **360 million Christians worldwide** now live under **high levels of persecution**.

These are not just statistics.

They are brothers.

They are sisters.

They are family.

#### Why?

Because darkness is growing bolder.

Because Satan knows his time is short.

"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." – 2 Timothy 3:13

The hatred of Christianity is accelerating because the war is accelerating.

The dragon rages. The nations rage. The flesh rages.

And all against Christ.

The book of Revelation describes it:

"The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." – Revelation 12:17

That's us.
That's the church.

And the war is intensifying.

We thought modern progress would soften the world.
We thought technology and tolerance would end the hatred.

But instead—it has deepened.

Truth is silenced. Holiness is mocked. Faithfulness is scorned.

Even kindness, if done in the name of Jesus, is despised.

#### Why?

Because the name of Christ offends. Because His authority confronts. Because His exclusivity enrages.

This isn't politics.
This isn't misunderstanding.
This is war.

Hatred accelerating is not failure. It is confirmation.

Confirmation that the Word is true. Confirmation that the world still hates Him. Confirmation that the end is drawing near.

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." – Matthew 24:12–13

Hatred will grow. But so will the church. Persecution will rise.

But so will endurance.

The world may rage louder.

But Christ will return stronger.

# **Reflection**

Do I see rising hostility as defeat—or as a sign of Christ's words coming true? Am I preparing my heart to endure, not by fear, but by faith?



## A Prayer

Lord, steady my heart as hatred grows.

Keep me faithful when mocked.

Keep me strong when opposed.

Help me endure to the end.

Because You endured for me.

Amen.

### Chapter 13 - The True Offense — Love in Action

The world expects Christians to shout.

To protest.

To condemn.

But the church's true weapon is love.

Not sentimental love.

Not shallow acceptance.

Not love that affirms sin.

But the love of Christ.

The love that forgives.

The love that heals.

The love that lays down its life.

This is the love the world cannot understand.

And cannot endure.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." – John 13:35

Rome fell not because Christians rioted.

Rome fell because Christians loved.

They rescued abandoned infants.

They fed the poor.

They cared for the sick in plagues.

They forgave their executioners.

And the empire could not withstand it.

Love is the most offensive force in the world.

Because love unmasks hate. Love exposes selfishness. Love reveals pride. Love testifies of God.

This is why the enemy fears it.
This is why Satan imitates it with counterfeits.

Lust masquerades as love. Affirmation pretends to be compassion. Tolerance dresses itself as kindness.

But none of these are the love of Christ.

True love speaks truth.

True love calls to repentance.

True love carries a cross.

Jesus embodied it. He healed the blind. He touched lepers. He welcomed sinners.

But He also said: "Go, and sin no more." – John 8:11

He wept over Jerusalem. But He also pronounced judgment.

He stretched out His hands to children. But He also stretched out His hands on the cross. This is love in action.

And it is hated.

Because it is holy.
Because it is selfless.
Because it cannot be bought,
and cannot be silenced.

When the church truly loves—
not with words, but with deeds—
it becomes unbearable to the world.

Because it is a mirror.

And mirrors expose what pride wants hidden.

"Love suffers long, and is kind... seeks not her own... rejoices not in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth." – 1 Corinthians 13:4–6

That is why Christianity is hated. Not because it does harm. But because it does good. Not because it spreads death. But because it defends life.

The gospel of love is the greatest danger to darkness.

And if the church is to be offensive in the right way, it must not be with louder voices. It must be with deeper love.

Love that serves.

Love that forgives.

Love that suffers.

Love that will not compromise truth.

# Reflection

Does my love offend the world—not because it is harsh, but because it is holy? Do I love enough to tell the truth, enough to sacrifice, enough to forgive?

### Prayer

Lord, teach me to love as You loved. Not with shallow words, but with costly action. Make my life a witness of truth and grace, so that even if the world hates me, it cannot deny You. Amen.

# Chapter 14 - The Cost of Discipleship — Counting What It Means to Follow

Christianity is free. But it is not cheap.

Grace costs us nothing.
But following Christ costs us everything.

Jesus said it plainly:

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." – Luke 9:23

The cross is not jewelry. It is not decoration. It is death.

To follow Jesus is to sign your own death warrant. To die to pride. To die to self. To die to the world.

That is why Christianity is hated. Because it demands everything. Not just belief.
Not just ritual.
Not just attendance.

Everything.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer called it costly grace:

"When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."

This is the cost.

Family may reject you. Friends may mock you. Work may pass you over. Nations may imprison you. Enemies may kill you.

And yet this is the way of Christ.

"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." – Luke 14:27

The crowds loved Jesus' miracles.
They loved His teaching.
But when He said:
"Eat my flesh, drink my blood" (John 6:53),
many walked away.

The cost was too high.

And still today—
many say "Lord, Lord,"
but shrink from the cross.

They want forgiveness, but not surrender.

Heaven, but not holiness. Salvation, but not discipleship.

This is why the church offends.
Because it declares:
You cannot have Christ on your terms.
You must have Him on His.

"So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." – Luke 14:33

The world hates this message.

Because it clashes with autonomy.

Because it crushes pride.

Because it leaves no middle ground.

But here is the paradox: What feels like loss is gain.

#### Paul said:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ... Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." – Philippians 3:7–8 The cost is high.

But the reward is higher.

The world may take:

Your wealth.

Your freedom.

Your life.

But Christ gives:

Forgiveness.

Eternal joy.

A crown of life.

So count the cost.

Not to scare yourself away but to know what you're saying yes to.

Because the gospel is free.

But discipleship will cost you everything.

And that is why Christianity offends.

### Reflection

Am I following Jesus on my terms—or His? Have I truly counted the cost, willing to lose all for Him?



#### Prayer

Lord, teach me to embrace the cross. Strip away my illusions of cheap faith. Make me ready to lose everything, that I might gain You.

Amen.

# **Chapter 15 - False Peace — When the Church Seeks Approval**

Everyone wants peace. Everyone wants acceptance. Everyone wants to be liked.

#### But Jesus warned:

"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." – Luke 6:26

False prophets were loved. Why?
Because they told people what they wanted to hear.

No confrontation.

No repentance.

No offense.

Just comfort.

Just affirmation.

Just peace.

#### But God said:

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace." – Jeremiah 6:14

This is false peace. Peace without truth.

Peace without holiness.

Peace without Christ.

And this is the danger of the modern church.

When we seek approval from the world—we will silence truth.
We will compromise holiness.
We will soften the gospel.

We will trade real peace for false peace.

The world will love us. But Christ will not.

"Do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." – Galatians 1:10

The offense of Christianity is gone when the church seeks approval. But so is its power.

A church that everyone loves is a church that has abandoned the cross.

Jesus promised division:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." – Matthew 10:34

The sword of truth divides. Light and darkness. Pride and humility. Life and death. There is no neutral ground.

When the church tries to be liked, it hides the sword. It hides the cross. It hides Christ.

And in doing so, it makes peace with the world. But war with God.

False peace is deadly.

Because it numbs conviction.

Because it silences the Spirit.

Because it deceives multitudes.

True peace only comes through the cross. Through repentance. Through forgiveness. Through surrender.

The world will never applaud that. But heaven will.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." – Matthew 5:11–12

The choice is simple:
Do I want applause now—
or reward forever?

Do I want man's approval or God's?

The true church will be hated. The false church will be applauded.

One has Christ. The other has peace. But not both.

#### **Reflection**

Am I seeking approval from men or from God? Do I mistake false peace for true? Have I softened truth to be liked, rather than spoken it in love?

### A Prayer

Lord, save me from false peace. Keep me from seeking man's approval. Make me bold to stand on truth, even if the world rejects me. Let me love enough to offend, and to endure hatred for Your sake. Amen.

# Chapter 16 - The Lukewarm West — When Comfort Replaces Conviction

In some nations, Christians are hunted. In others, they are ignored.

One faces fire.
The other faces fog.

Both are dangerous. But in different ways.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." – Revelation 3:15–16

The Western church is rarely persecuted. And that sounds like a blessing. But often, it is a curse.

Because what is not resisted, grows weak.

What is not tested, becomes fragile.

What is not hated, may not be holy.

Comfort has become the West's persecution. Distraction has become its prison. Tolerance has become its gag.

Satan knows he doesn't need chains. He just needs couches.

Not fire.

But comfort.

Not the sword.

But screens.

And the church sleeps.

In Rome, Christians were thrown to lions. In Jerusalem, they were stoned. In the West, they are entertained to death.

This is the danger of being lukewarm.

Not hostile.

Not passionate.

Just safe.

Just quiet.

Just nice.

But safe faith is not saving faith. And nice Christianity is not true Christianity.

Jesus said:

"Take up your cross." – Luke 9:23

Not:

"Take up your cushion."

Why is the Western church not hated more? Because too often, it has nothing to hate.

It avoids offense.
It waters down truth.
It preaches love without repentance.
Grace without holiness.
Heaven without hell.

The world nods politely. And hell claps quietly.

The absence of persecution is not proof of faithfulness. It may be proof of compromise.

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." – 2 Timothy 3:5

The danger is not that the West is persecuted. The danger is that the West is applauded.

The lukewarm church is tolerated—but it is powerless.

The faithful church is hated—but it is alive.

The choice is before us: Do we want comfort or Christ?

Peace with the world—or peace with God?

A lukewarm life or a burning witness?

#### Reflection

Have I mistaken comfort for blessing? Do I live so safely that the world finds me harmless? Or do I live so boldly that Christ shines, even if the world hates it?



### A Prayer

Lord, wake me from lukewarmness. Shake me from comfort. Make me bold in truth, fervent in love, and fearless in holiness. Let my life be a flame, not a fog. Amen.

# Chapter 17 - The Early Church Offended the World — and Changed It

The church was born in fire.

Not in comfort.

Not in safety.

Not in applause.

From its first breath, the world resisted.

Pentecost:

Peter preached.

Three thousand believed.

And persecution began.

"And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered...

We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." – Acts 4:18–20

The authorities warned them.

Threatened them.

Beat them.

But they could not be silenced.

Stephen was stoned.

Paul was whipped, shipwrecked, imprisoned.

James was killed by the sword.

John was exiled to Patmos.

And still the gospel spread. Not because it was tolerated. But because it was offensive.

Rome mocked it as foolishness. Athens dismissed it as babble. Jerusalem hated it as blasphemy.

And yet it conquered hearts. Because truth, even when hated, cannot be stopped.

The early Christians were not rebels with swords. They were servants with scars.

They rescued abandoned infants.
They shared their possessions.
They welcomed slaves and rulers alike.
They forgave their persecutors.

And the empire was shaken.

Rome had never seen this kind of love. Love that confronted sin. Love that defied Caesar. Love that endured the lions.

Tertullian, a church father, said:
"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

He was right. Every drop spilled was a testimony. Every death preached louder than any sermon.

This is how Christianity offended the world.
Not with protests.
Not with politics.
But with holiness.
With sacrifice.
With unshakable love.

The church was despised—
and it grew.
The church was persecuted—
and it flourished.
The church was hated—
and it endured.

"They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name." – Acts 5:41

The early church did not seek offense. But offense found them.

Because truth always offends lies. Because light always exposes darkness. Because Christ always divides.

This is our heritage. Not applause.

Not ease.

Not comfort.

But faith that overcomes the world.

### Reflection

Do I look like the early church—offending with truth, but overcoming with love? Or do I look more like the world—safe, quiet, acceptable?



### A Prayer

Lord, give me the boldness of Peter.

The faith of Stephen.

The endurance of Paul.

The love of the early saints.

Make my life a witness

that cannot be silenced.

Amen.

# Chapter 18 - Our Brothers Today — Persecution in Our Time

Persecution is not history.

It is now.

Not just in Acts.

Not just in Rome.

Not just in books.

Today.

"Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." – Hebrews 13:3

## Nigeria

Since the year 2000, more than **62,000 Christians** have been murdered in Nigeria.

Whole villages burned.

Churches destroyed.

Pastors killed in front of their families.

One year alone—almost 5,000 believers slain.

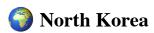
Yet the church gathers still.

They sing in the ashes.

They pray in the ruins.

They worship in whispers—

and in shouts.



To own a Bible is a death sentence. To gather in worship is treason. Believers are sent to prison camps, where many never emerge.

And yet the underground church survives. Risking life just to whisper His name.

### China

The church grows fastest where it is forbidden. House churches multiply under surveillance. Pastors are arrested. Crosses are torn down. Bibles are confiscated.

Still, the gospel spreads.
One believer at a time.
One prayer at a time.
One act of boldness at a time.

### Iran

Dreams and visions of Jesus stir the hearts of Muslims. Underground churches meet in secret rooms. Conversion means losing family, home, and safety.

But the church grows. Christ is calling. And they are answering.



Radical mobs attack churches.
Believers are beaten,
sometimes burned.
Pastors are dragged into the streets.

And yet the church multiplies. Joyful. Courageous. Unstoppable.

This is not far away. Not "those people." Not strangers.

This is us.
This is our family.
This is our body.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together." – 1 Corinthians 12:26

The persecuted church is not our charity. It is our kinship.
Their wounds are ours.
Their chains are ours.
Their faith is our inheritance.

And their witness is our rebuke.

Because while we grow tired in comfort, they grow bold in fire.

While we grow lukewarm in ease, they grow fervent in danger.

While we debate convenience, they count the cost gladly.

The enemy has not silenced them. But their faith exposes our weakness.

And so we must ask: Do we pray for them? Do we speak for them? Do we love them as family? Do we see them as ourselves?

The offense of Christianity is global. The hatred is rising. The battle is real.

But so is the faith. So is the victory. So is the hope.

#### Reflection

Do I live as though I am one with the persecuted church? Do I pray, give, and care as if their pain were mine?



#### A Prayer

Lord, teach me to remember my brothers and sisters. Do not let me grow numb to their cries.

Strengthen them in trial.

Strengthen me in comfort.

And make us one body,

faithful to the end.

Amen.

# Chapter 19 - Epilogue: Offend by Truth, Love, and Light

The world hates Christianity. Not because it is violent. Not because it is irrational. Not because it is false.

But because it is true.

From the Garden to the Cross. From Rome to today. The story has not changed.

The world loves darkness. And the gospel is light.

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." – John 3:19

So what should the church do? Hide? Soften? Seek peace? Blend in?

No.

The church must offend.

Not by cruelty. Not by arrogance. Not by shouting.

But by living so much like Christ that the world sees Him—and is pierced to the heart.

#### Truth will offend.

Because it confronts pride. Because it exposes lies.

#### Love will offend.

Because it rebukes hatred. Because it calls sin by name.

#### Light will offend.

Because it reveals what was hidden. Because it cannot be ignored.

This is what Jesus promised.

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." – John 15:18

To follow Him is to share His offense.

To carry His cross is to carry His rejection.

To wear His name is to wear His shame—
before we wear His crown.

But this is not defeat. It is victory.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven." – Matthew 5:11–12

So let the church not fear offense. Let us not avoid hatred.

Let us not seek approval.

Let us shine.

Let us love.

Let us stand.

Because every time the church has embraced the offense of the gospel, the world has been shaken.

Souls have been saved.

And Christ has been glorified.

"For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life." – 2 Corinthians 2:15–16

The world may call it hate.
But in Christ, it is love.
The world may see it as foolishness.
But in Christ, it is wisdom.
The world may hate us.
But in Christ, we are blessed.

So let us be offensive.

Not by noise.

Not by anger.

But by truth, love, and light.

The world will hate us.

But some will be saved.

And the Kingdom will come.

### 🚹 Final Reflection

Am I willing to be offensive for Christ—not by cruelty, but by holiness, truth, and love? Am I prepared to carry His reproach, knowing it is also His glory?



#### 🙏 Final Prayer

Lord, make me bold.

Make me faithful.

Make me loving enough to offend the world,

but never You.

Let my life shine Your light,

speak Your truth,

and embody Your love—

until You come again.

Amen.