

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 13

QUESTION 1

- a) Jesus is not using the term to describe humankind in general, or the created world.
- b) He means a fallen mankind under the control of Satan. One that is rebellion against God and opposed to His rule, and His rightful King Jesus (see **1 John 5:19**).
- c) The world is either consumed with self or with self-created gods (see **1 John 4:5-6**).
- d) The unbeliever is therefore 'of the world'.

QUESTION 2

- a) We might expect that the message of eternal life would be received with open arms. But Jesus is clear that quite the opposite will be the case.
- b) There is an inevitability of opposition.
- c) People's rejection of the gospel would reveal itself in hatred for the followers of Jesus. This is because they are intimately connected to Him. We are His representatives (see **2 Corinthians 2:14-16**).
- d) To belong to Christ is to invite some of the hatred directed at Christ.
- e) Andrew Paterson *"It is only when we have grasped the depth of the world's hatred of Christ that we can begin to understand why the world hates Christians"*.
- f) Jesus' words in verse 20: *"A servant is not greater than his master"* are reminiscent of His words in John 13:16. We follow His example in service, but also in opposition.
- g) However, note the encouragement in verse 20. Just as some received Jesus; so will some receive His people. They will be those who come to faith through the work of God's people in mission.

QUESTION 3

- a) Jesus' name is important. He is the Christ; the anointed one of God. He is God incarnate.
- b) This attracted hatred towards Him and accusations of blasphemy. Those who rejected Him showed that they didn't really know God the Father; the one who had sent His Son.
- c) In **Acts 5:40-42** we see the apostles suffering for 'the name'.

QUESTION 4

- a) Jesus is not saying that before He came, people lived in sinless perfection.
- b) But now that the truth of God had been revealed, there is no hiding from the demands of God. There is no excuse.
- c) This is one of the reasons the world hates. Sin is exposed.
- d) It was not just what Jesus said that attracted hatred towards Him; but what He did.
- e) His actions confirmed His authority but people could not see it. They resisted it.
- f) It is true that ever since the fall, man has sinned against God. Now they were sinning against the perfect revelation of God; His Son Jesus (see **John 3:19-20**).

QUESTION 5

- a) What is happening is only what was foretold.
- b) The same words which David used concerning his enemies would also describe the conduct of the Jews and their treatment of the Messiah. In both cases it was without cause. Jesus had broken no law; He had done no injury to his nation or to any individual.
- c) That continues to be the situation today providing we seek to live our lives according to God's way (see **1 Peter 2:11-12**).
- d) We are reassured that God is in control of all things.

QUESTION 6

- a) We often find it surprising that opposition to Christ is so strong. Also that it is unfair and often irrational.
- b) We need a biblical understanding that there will be opposition. And a biblical understanding of why it happens.