



**OUTPOST  
CHURCH**

# “POINTING PEOPLE TO JESUS”

## HOW TO HANDLE REJECTION

‘Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’ - Matthew 5:10-12

Definition of Christian Persecution = To harass, annoy or subject a Christian to hostility & ill-treatment because of their beliefs.

### WHAT IS PERSECUTION A SIGN OF?

Jesus is not saying that the way to a life of blessing is to seek persecution. What Jesus is saying is that those who are Christians who have been blessed by God with the sure and certain hope of a great reward in heaven will experience persecution at some stage in their life. When persecution comes for being a Christian it is not a sign that God does not love you. When persecution comes for being a Christian it is a sign that God has already loved you and made you one of his children

Every Christian who is led by the Spirit will be persecuted:

‘In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in  
Christ Jesus will be persecuted’ - 2 Tim 3:12

- Every Christian who is led by the Spirit and becoming more like Jesus will be persecuted.
- It is possible for a Christian to avoid persecution through resisting, quenching and grieving the Spirit’s work in you as he points you to become like Jesus.
- It is not a good thing when everyone speaks well of you!

‘Woe to you when all men speak well of you,  
for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets’  
Luke 6:26

Do people speak so well of you because you do not ever tell people the truth about what you believe and about their broken relationship with God? Are you like a doctor who lovingly tells people the bad news that a serious operation is needed to save their life, or are you like the loveless doctor who would rather tell people that everything is OK? Do your words and actions tell people around you that there is no problem and that they are not in any danger whatsoever?

‘They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.  
‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.’  
Jeremiah 6:14

## THE WAY TO BLESSING

So, the way to be blessed is not through being persecuted but rather those who are blessed by God in being made his children will be persecuted as a result at times in their life. A Christian is someone who has put their trust in a persecuted Saviour, who was rejected by men so that we might not be rejected by God. But what do you do when rejection comes your way?

## ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS

- Are you being persecuted or are you just being a pain?
- Are you being rejected for being a Christian or are you being rejected for being repulsive?
- Are you being rejected for being a Christian or because you’re just not that good at something?

## ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU YOURSELF

‘Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.’  
Psalm 139:23-24

Sometimes it’s hard to see our own problems which can often be the cause of others problems with us. God can reveal your heart to yourself in a way that you have never seen. This can be painful!

## ASK OTHERS TO SHOW YOU YOURSELF

You may need to ask those who seem to be mistreating you why they are acting like they are. Perhaps it's nothing to do with you being a Christian. Even if it is your beliefs they have a problem with we may still need to check a couple of things:

- Have they understood your beliefs correctly?
- Has the way you have said things caused offense rather than the truth that is being told?

‘Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone’

Colossians 4:6

‘But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to

give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect’

1 Peter 3:15

If you have caused offense, repent, apologize and make up for it. If it is not you that has caused offense and it actually is Jesus that they are rejecting and persecuting you for then you are officially being persecuted...what then do you do?

## 1. PRAY FOR WISDOM

‘Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.’ James 1:2-5

When you face persecution we should pray for wisdom so you would know:

- When to escape and when to endure - John 15:18-25, Luke 9:51, Acts 5, Acts 4:19-20
- When to speak and when to remain silent – Proverbs 26:4-5
- How to walk in wisdom – Proverbs 28:26

## 2. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

‘You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But

I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you’

Matthew 5:43-44

- Remember that their rejection of you is actually their REJECTION OF JESUS – John 15:18-25
- You don't have to like them but you are called to LOVE them
- You are called to love them and PRAY for them – Matthew 5:43-44, Luke 23:34 / Acts 7:59-60
- Love should lead to ACTIONS – James 2:15-16, James 4:17, Romans 12:21

### 3. REJOICE AND BE GLAD

‘Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you’  
– Matthew 5:11-12

- Rejoice not in the pain but in the person Jesus has made you - a child of God!
- There is a blessing that comes from being persecuted that you won’t know until you experience it
- We should not seek persecution but seek to live a godly life

### 4. QUESTION: ARE YOU PERSECUTING A CHRISTIAN?

If you are not a Christian and the are giving a Christian a hard time for their beliefs that means you are against Jesus (Acts 9:5) and you need to turn from rejecting the only one who can save you from your sin and give you eternal life.

It is also possible for a Christian to technically persecute another Christian by harassing, annoying or subjecting a Christian to hostility & ill-treatment because of their beliefs.

You persecute another Christian when you see the Christian and what they ought to be, you see their faults and then you have a go at them, and pull them down, and try and cause them damage.

Are you the Christian who is like a demolition expert or are you like the Christian who is like a house restoration expert?

### THE DEMOLITION EXPERT

The demolition expert sees the flaws in the building and says “I need to bring that building down, it’s good for nothing!”, so he goes up to the flaws and gets his dynamite and sticks it in the holes and brings the building down.

### THE HOUSE RESTORATION EXPERT

The house restoration expert sees the flaws in the building and says “I need to restore that building, it has so much potential”. He does not ignore the flaws but goes up to the flaws and corrects them by supporting, filling them and taking great care.

Are you as a Christian someone who when seeing other Christian’s flaws, wants to bring them down or are you someone who sees the flaws and wants to lift them up? Someone who wants to blast the flaw or carefully, prayerfully and lovingly restore the flaw?

‘Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs’

Ephesians 4:29