

## **Why They Hate The Church of Christ – Submitted by Rico Brown**

*“Ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved” Matthew 10:22*

Atheists hate the Lord’s church because it represents the God whom they vehemently deny. It preaches a moral standard they refuse to accept or abide by. It is a living monument proclaiming the existence of Jehovah. They want to claim and control the hearts and minds of the people and thus set the standard for society. The church is an obstacle to their evil ambitions.

Communists and other totalitarian rulers hate the church because she stands in their path, blocking their efforts to enslave and exploit people. The church advances the great truths that inspire people to want freedom and liberty. Man is made in God’s image (Genesis 1:26). He has individual worth and dignity. “We ought to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29). He owes his ultimate allegiance to God. Human life is sacred and must not be abused or destroyed (Genesis 9:6).

Muslims hate the church as well. Hatred of Jews, Christians, and unbelievers is part and parcel of their religion. The long history of Islam is one of warfare, violence, and persecution of all who do not yield to Mohamed and the Koran. To them, the great war is between Christ and his cause, and Mohamed.

Pagan religion leaders often hate the church as well. They fear her evangelistic outreach and recruitment for Christ. They fear for their altars and helpless gods of wood and stone that cannot defend themselves (Jeremiah 10:5). They fear loss of income and power should the people leave the old religions and turn to Christ and his church.

Virtually every leader of every cult and sect hates the Lord’s church. When she wins souls to Christ, they are out of their reach. She actually wins some of their followers and leads them safely to the Master’s church. Faithful preachers of the church challenge cult leaders and expose them and their deceitful message. For this they are vilified (John 7:7).

Many Roman Catholic and Protestant church leaders are among the many who hate the church. The counterfeit is jealous of the real or genuine product. They fear the message of truth the church proclaims (John 8:32), for it is so contrary to their human doctrines. They fear the power of the church to lead people from their folds to Christ and his church. They fear the church might expose their lies and perversion of God’s truth, so they view her with an evil eye and speak evil of her.

False teachers within the church hate the church. They dislike her faithful worship. They want the freedom to believe, teach and worship as they will. When loyal members refuse to yield to their demands; when they resist, confront, and oppose their efforts, it infuriates them. They speak evil of her in order to advance their own cause.

Unfortunately, we see the haters of the Lord’s church are united in their common causes for this strong dislike with eleven reasons: (She = The Church of Christ) <sup>1</sup>She seeks to win their followers for the Lord; <sup>2</sup>She fulfills her mission and she blocks the path to victory for their cause; <sup>3</sup>She cites her Master’s condemnation of their sins (2 Timothy 4:2); <sup>4</sup>She proclaims a message that is the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). It is God’s truth and thus superior to the teaching of other groups; <sup>5</sup>She affirms God’s truth that Christ founded and is head of the only church (Ephesians 1:22 & 4:4), and no others; <sup>6</sup>She strives to be that one true church of Christ; <sup>7</sup>She is uncompromising in her faith; <sup>8</sup>She is the bride of Christ who is Lord and Judge of the world (Acts 17:31); <sup>9</sup>Her teaching exposes the faulty claims of their doctrine and organizations; <sup>10</sup>Her teaching exposes their deceitful wiles and tricks which limit their ability to deceive (2 Corinthians 2:11); <sup>11</sup>She is the pillar and ground of truth (1 Timothy 3:15).