Mount Hebron Church Ministries

Part II. Love: Living Like A Disciple & Loving As Jesus Loves

Week 24/Oct. 14, 2026

What If People Turn Against Me?

Scriptures: Matthew 10:21-22; John 15:18-21; Hebrews 12:1-2; John 16:33; Proverbs 18:24

How do Christians handle when people turn against them? I'm going to let you in on a little secret today: people will turn against you. The more positive change people see in your life on your discipleship journey, the more they may feel convicted if they're not submitting to Christ—and misery loves company. Those who continue in sin will push you to sin with them. You may never say an offensive word to them, but your lifestyle changes can cause friends to put up a wall and block you out.

A. Light Reveals What Darkness Can Hide

1. "When I was young and did sinful things, I often felt guilty and assumed my parents would be angry with me. As a result, my own guilt caused me to push them away. I didn't want to be corrected or feel shame, so I preemptively got angry at them. *It must be them. They must dislike me. They must be made at me."*

2. "As I got older, I realized that the guilt over my wrongdoing was what motivated my anger and resentment. I needed to admit my wrongdoing and reconcile with my parents. "

3. "As you make changes in your life to align with the teachings of Christ, you will become a light shining in darkness. Those who want to remain in darkness will find this offensive."

4. "Have you ever been asleep in the middle of the night and someone suddenly turned on the light? It was so bright! You weren't ready to get up! That's offensive! You wanted the light turned off so you could stay in darkness!"

5. "Jesus is the light of the world, and he makes you a light to the world also. As His light begins to shine through you, you're going to expose darkness"

6. "Those who don't want their darkness exposed will turn away from you, for a while. This can be a discouraging shift in the Christian's life."

7. "You may think of going back to the way you were so that your friendships can be the way they were. To do this, though, would certainly bring you under conviction and lead you to destruction. That's the worst thing you could do for yourself and for them."

8. "In **Matthew 10:21-22**, Jesus described how even family members would turn on the disciples because of their commitment to Jesus, adding that "the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

B. <u>A Worthy Pursuit</u>

1. "In America, we've been privileged to have been spared the serious persecution that our brothers and sisters around the world have endured throughout history and still endure today. It certainly still hurts, though, when friends and family reject you because of your faith and their guilt. You may hear things such as, "Are *you* trying to preach to *me* now?" "You think you're better than me now that you've changed." "I remember who you used to be!"

2. "You will always face some level of rejection or persecution when you start shinning a light in dark places. As for your friends and family, give them some time. **John 15:18-21."**

When their eyes start to adjust to the Light, pray that they see a better way.

3. “Jesus pursued me even though he was despised, rejected, and crucified, so when people turn away from me because of my faith, I still choose the one who refused to abandon me.”

4. “I choose the person who took all the scorn and shame for me so I could be saved. Yes, I will lose some people in my life because of my faith, but I gain someone who will never give up on me. In truth, anyone who abandons you because your life gets better is not a true friend.”

5. “You have a Savior who loved you before you changed. He bore your guilt, your pain, and your shame. “For the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” **(Hebrews 12:1-2**)

6. “If you have to lose people to gain someone who will never leave you, choose Jesus.”

7. “Why does the world hate us? Because we’re not like them anymore. And we remind them that there is a choice to make. Though you will be discouraged when people turn against you, others will follow your example because they’re inspired by the change in you. Even those who leave you may only do so for a season. As we continue to show them God’s love patience, mercy, grace, and forgiveness, some will come back. **John 16:33.”**

8. “When people leave, you don’t have to shut the door. Pray that God will work in their lives and that you will have an opportunity to receive them back as brothers and sisters in Christ.”

9. “Don’t ever forget “there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother**. Proverbs 18:25.**”

Questions:

1. Why will people inevitably turn against us?

2. How does the world treat us differently because of our choice to follow Jesus?

3. How can we show love to those who turn against us or leave us?

4. Share an example of a lost relationship because of your Salvation.

5. Based on **Hebrews 12:1-2.** What weights do we need to lay aside so that we can run the race that has been set before us."