

Why do people despise the cross of Christ so much?

Often when speaking to people about Christ and the cross of Christ, people will get angry or antagonistic about the message of Jesus Christ.

1. How do people react upon hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ?

1 Corinthians **1:21-24**

Acts **2:36-38; 7:54-60**

2 Peter **3:1-4**

Matthew **13:18-23**

There are many different responses to hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some people will mock and laugh. Others will ignore what they hear. Some will be very angry and possibly bring violence. There are some who will believe and submit themselves to the word of God. Most people tend to be either apathetic or angry while few will submit and believe.

2. What is every man's natural desire?

Proverbs **20:6**

Luke **10:28-29**

Jeremiah **3:11**

1 Corinthians **2:14**

Every man's natural desire is to proclaim and to adhere to the idea that he is a good person and that God, if there is one, knows that he is at least trying to be good. As a result of believing himself to be good, most men will not comprehend the great depth of his own depravity and thus his great need for salvation through the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. What is the source of anger and antagonism?

Acts **17:1-5**

John **3:18-21**

People get angry over the message of the gospel because the gospel tells people that they are by nature evil and wicked. This shatters their self perception of being good. The want to justify their actions and their beliefs and themselves. People naturally get angry when you expose their great sinfulness.

4. What reason to people give for being upset about the gospel?

John **14:6; 20:28**

Matthew **7:1-2**

Matthew **7:13-14, 21-23**

There are a few reasons that people give for being upset by the gospel. Those of other religious tend to focus in on the exclusivity of Jesus for salvation. The want to believe that their faith system is just as valid as the Christian faith system. Of particular rejection by religious individuals is the necessity to understand that Jesus is the God of all creation living in human flesh. His divine nature and character is what they really hate. Add to this the religious individual trying to lay claim to faith in Jesus even while rejecting Him. These individuals may consider their faith to be compatible with Orthodox Christian faith while they reject His divine nature, His supreme authority, His virgin birth, His Lordship (ownership). Basically people want the benefits of eternal life without the submission to God. Finally, people don't believe that anybody, including God, is allowed to judge their words, thoughts, and actions. They will often use such language as "don't judge me". Although Jesus does give is the obligation to evaluate, as best as we can, the faithfulness of another. While we can never be 100% accurate, we can accurately identify the presence of sin in the life of others.