

**WHEN IT'S NOT EASY**  
**I Corinthians 4:9-14 • May 30, 2021**  
**Dr. Scott E. Koenigsaecker, Sequim Community Church**

**INTRODUCTION:**

A. We as Christians are moving into a time of persecution...harassment, hostility and ill treatment are ramping up.

B. ***We bless those who curse us. We are patient with those who abuse us. We appeal gently when evil things are said about us. Yet we are treated like the world's garbage, like everybody's trash – right up to the present moment. I am writing these things...to warn you as my beloved children.*** — I Corinthians 4:12-14

***Be patient with everyone...try to do good....to all people.*** — I Thessalonians 5:14

***Do everything possible on your part to live at peace with everyone.*** — Romans 12:18

***"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers...But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven."*** — Matthew 5:11, 44

C. Persecution by affiliation.

**Jesus: "If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also."** — John 15:20

**I. HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?**

A. Realize we are in a spiritual battle.

***We are not fighting against human beings, but against wicked (evil) forces.***  
— Ephesians 6:12

B. Refuse to play by their rules...no retaliation.

***If someone does evil to you, don't pay them back with evil...never take revenge...let God's wrath do it.*** — Romans 12:17 & 19

***Bless...patient...gentle...*** — I Corinthians 4:12

C. Respond in a positive, loving manner.

***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*** — Romans 12:21

***...for God's Spirit rests on you (can be seen in your life).*** — I Peter 4:14

D. Remain faithful.

***So those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.*** — I Peter 4:19

**CONCLUSION:**