

# Persecution

Are we persecuted? Should we expect persecution? What forms might persecution take? How should we react when/if persecution arises?

1. We should definitely expect persecution
  - a. It is the history of God's faithful people to be persecuted
  - b. The Old Testament prophets are an example of such persecution
  - c. Christians were persecuted almost immediately after the beginning of the church
  - d. If we are not experiencing persecution today, what has changed? What is different? Does this say something about us?
  
2. What are some of the areas where we might experience persecution?
  - a. Rejection by family
  - b. Loss of income/possessions
  - c. Ridicule by others
  - d. Extreme personal persecution
  
3. How should we react to persecution?
  - a. Rejoice!
    - Not in the suffering as an end in itself
    - But that it indicates we are faithfully doing God's will
    - We are in the good company of God's faithful people throughout the ages
  - b. Do not compromise as a result of it
  - c. Realize that there are spiritual benefits to it
  - d. Glorify God!