
SERMON NOTES January 10, 2021

Today's notes also available at CCPL.life/Connect

John 15:18-16:4
When the World Hates You
Pastor Mike

- I. The promise of _____ and _____
 - a. The world will respond _____ as it responded _____
 - b. Our culture's love for _____
 - c. The world's response to _____

- II. Understanding the _____ of Christ and his followers
 - a. It can't understand our _____
 - b. It can't accept God as _____

- III. Bearing witness _____ in spite of _____

- IV. Reasons why we need to _____ this warning
 - a. Resist the temptation to make _____ your goal
 - b. Right beliefs protect us from _____
 - c. Remember God's _____ in times of _____
 - d. Persevere with _____ in your _____

Questions for reflection, application, and discussion

1. There are many churches that teach what is often called “the prosperity gospel.” They teach that God wants to give health and prosperity to all his kids who are living in his will. This message it at odds with what Jesus teaches at the end of John 15, where he teaches that the world will hate us at followers of Jesus.
 - a. This teaching of Jesus, that the world will hate us as his followers because they hated him, is hardly a popular message. Why is it important for us to hear and understand?
 - b. Why do you think the prosperity gospel has become so popular in our world today? Is there any way to reconcile and harmonize the teaching of the prosperity gospel with teaching such as Jesus’ teaching here in John 15? Explain your answer.
2. Many pastors and church leaders believe that in order to win an opportunity to share the gospel with people in our secular culture, we as a church need to work to be liked and respected by those we seek to reach. But we have to ask, is this goal and desire at odds with Jesus words at the end of John 15 where he tells us that the world will hit us?
 - a. Is this desire to be like and respected in order to win a hearing for the gospel rooted at least in part in Biblical teaching? If so, what scriptures can you think of that would teach this?
 - b. Considering how inconsistent this desire is with Jesus’ warning in John 15, it would seem that it is at best, unbalanced. What are the dangers for a church that is overly motivated to win approval of those in the secular culture?
 - c. What are ways that the contemporary church can (and often does) compromise something essential in our message in a desire to be liked by the world?
 - d. What are the dangers for us individually if we become overly driven by the desire to win their approval?
3. Many non-Christians in our culture will criticize Christians for being unlike Jesus if we say anyone’s opinion is wrong, if we call any behavior sin, or worse yet if we talk in any way about the idea of God’s judgment. Jesus is presented as a person of ultimate love, grace, and acceptance who wouldn’t do any of these things.
 - a. In John 15 Jesus teaches that he was hated and rejected, and his followers should expect the same reception. Where is the disconnect between the world’s view of Jesus and what his followers should be, and Jesus teaching in John 15?
 - b. How can we as followers of Jesus defend ourselves against the pressure of being like the Christ the culture demands, and follow the true Jesus?
 - c. In John 1:14 Jesus is described as being “*full of grace and truth.*” What does that mean? What does it look like to be full of grace and truth?
4. In his message Pastor Mike talked about two reasons that the world has a natural hatred of Jesus and his followers. Those in the world can’t understand our changed lives and values, and they can’t accept and submit to God as a higher authority. How does understanding this help you in dealing with unbelievers who can be hostile to Jesus and to us as his followers?
5. It would be natural to conclude that since so many in the world are hostile to Jesus, his message, and to us as his followers, we would have reason to avoid even trying to talk to people about our faith. But Jesus concludes his teaching on this idea in John 15:26-27 by calling us to be assertive in bearing witness about him. Why should we be optimistic in our witness, if we know the world’s natural hostility to Jesus?