

Hated by the World, Loved by God (John 15:18-16:4a)
That You May Believe: The Gospel of John
Southern Hills Baptist Church
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WELCOME

Welcome church! We gather here today to celebrate and hear from God. I hope that reality hits you every time you open your Bible. You are hearing from God! What an incredible and gracious reality that we live in, that we can open up God's Word nearly any time we desire and hear from our Maker! Let's do that now, turn in your Bibles to John 15. We will pick up in verse 18 in a few minutes.

INTRODUCTION

Over the past few months we have been walking through what is known as the "Farewell Discourse." This discourse is the recorded teaching of Jesus to His Disciples on the night of His betrayal and the night leading up to His torture and murder.

Pouring Into His Disciples

Jesus is using the time He has left to pour into His Disciples and prepare them for the very difficult days that are ahead of them as well as the ministry that God would have for them.

Farewell Discourse Recap

And Jesus has done much to prepare them already...

- In the upper room Jesus **displayed radical humility and service** by washing the feet of the Disciples.
- Jesus then called them to **love as He had loved**.
- Jesus then sought to build up hope in them as the events and days ahead of the Disciples would leave them feeling as if their worlds had fallen apart. So Jesus began **sharing hope-giving promise after hope-giving promise**, the greatest of which was the promised coming of the **Holy Spirit**.
- Jesus also spent time teaching the Disciples who they were in Him as instructed them that He is the vine and they are the branches, which unfolded an instructive word picture of the life, strength, and purpose they have in Him.
- Jesus then continued to call them to radically love one another as He has loved them.

Shifting Tones

Jesus' focus shifts in a pretty noticeable way in our passage today. Up to this point Jesus has been offering words of hope and encouragement. He has been working to give the Disciple truths that would support them when everything else in their life felt like it was falling apart. Starting in verse 18, however, Jesus shifts to talking about the cost of Discipleship, and there is a cost.

Jesus is Real

Here is something I love about Jesus, He is real. He is real all of the time. He is real even when it doesn't benefit His immediate interests. Something Jesus does over and over again in the Gospels is that He says things that chase off crowds. One might think that as a teacher Jesus would want to attract and keep crowds around, thus one might think that Jesus would stop saying things that would scare people away. **One might expect these things, but Jesus rarely does what we would expect.**

Real Even When It Hurts

Rather what we see in Jesus is someone who is so **committed to the truth and telling people what they need to hear, not what they want to hear**, that He runs away big crowds over and over. Take a look at John 6 for a good reminder.

Jesus Ain't No Salesman

Jesus **never approaches people like a salesman** who wants to bait you in with benefits and hide the true cost. No, He lays it all before you **the good and the bad, the blessing and the pain, the joy and the sorrow, the reward of life in Him and the cost of discipleship**.

The Cost of Discipleship

Thus far in the Farewell Discourse Jesus has offered the promise of many blessings, but now the tone shifts, the other side of the coin is presented, the cost of Discipleship is explained. And Brothers and Sisters, it is good that it is. How wonderful it is that Jesus lays this out for us. **The words that we are about to read and consider together are heavy words. They are words that you wish were not true, but they are.** We will not stick our heads in the sand and pretend like it isn't so. If we are going to live for Jesus we need to know what is coming our way and Jesus' words in John 15:18-16:4 are meant to prepare the Disciples and you for just that.

OPENING PRAYER

With that in mind, let's pause for a moment and open with a word of prayer, asking God to use His Word to prepare us for the cost of following Jesus.

Dear Heavenly Father,

The joy of following you is great, but there is a cost. Open our eyes to that cost this morning. Help us to see it and understand it that we may better understand the world around us and live for Jesus more faithfully. Help strengthen us to live for you even when it isn't easy. May we abide in your sweet, sustaining, life-giving love. May we always remember that your love is better than life and that knowing you is over surpassing worth.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen

OUR TEXT

Let's turn our attention to God's holy and inerrant Word. Hear the Word of God...

John 15:18-16:4

[18] "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. [20] Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. [21] But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. [22] If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [23] Whoever hates me hates my Father also. [24] If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me

and my Father. [25] But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

[26] "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

[1] "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. [2] They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. [3] And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. [4] But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Isaiah 40:8

[8] The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Keep You From Falling Away

I believe 16:1 captures Jesus' goal in this teaching. He understands how difficult things are going to become for the Disciples. Not only are they going to witness the heart-breaking reality of Jesus being unjustly arrested, beaten, and murdered, but **the same persecution that followed Jesus was going to follow after them**. They were going to live under similar pressure and pain. Jesus understands all of this so He wants to prepare His Disciples.

Rock, Paper, Scissors – Bracing for the Shot

When I was a kid, in middle school and high school my Dad, brothers and I played the game rock, paper, scissors. We loved this game, but the winner got to slug the looser in the arm. Sounds like a silly game young boys would play, it was. Winning was glorious. You would savor the moment and enjoy watching your brother or Dad squirm nervously as they waited for what was to come. Loosing stunk. The worst part was often the waiting for the punch to come. But we all figured out pretty quickly that there was a good way to take the punch in the shoulder and a bad way to take it. If you braced yourself, got tense, flexed your muscles, it was always more bearable. It was the worst when the punch caught you off guard while you were still loose and unsuspecting.

Brace for Hate

Jesus is telling the Disciples about the coming hate and persecution so that they may brace themselves for the punches that are about to be thrown. Jesus wants to see them standing after hate is directed their way. He wants to ensure they don't fall away is what He says in 16:1.

Our Takeaway

This is what we need to take away from this passage as well. Hear the warnings of Jesus that you may be prepared, that you may not be stunned when someone shows disdain for you because of your love for Jesus.

Timely in our Country

This is a good time in the life of our country to hear this warning. For most of our country's existence Christian values have been mainstream and affirmed. Living a life that openly followed Jesus would rarely bring any blow back.

Shifting Morality

As you may have noticed, things are changing in our country and those changes are moving at a pace never seen before. Christian morality is no longer mainstream and is becoming less so every day, thus

when you follow Jesus you are going to stand out. You will also find your beliefs and values at odds with the world you live in.

Thus what Jesus describes in our passage today is timely. Listen to His warning that you may know the cost of following Him and not be surprised by how the world will respond to your faith.

Roadmap

With all of this in mind let me turn your attention to our text. Our passage breaks up into 2 sections and one underlying truth.

- Jesus first warns His Disciples that they will be **Hated by the World**.
- Jesus then warns His Disciples that they will be **Hated by the Religious**.
- Finally, we will see the underlying and assumed truth that you are **Loved by God**.

HATED BY THE WORLD (15:18-27)

So, again, the first warning that Jesus gives His Disciples is that they are hated by the world.

The theme of hate is hard to avoid in these verses. Jesus uses the word “hate” 8 times in 10 verses. The hate spoken of in 15:18-27 deals with the hate the world has for Jesus’ followers. 2 quick definitions as we kick off...

Defining Hate

Let’s define “hate.” I think this is important b/c our culture uses the word so flippantly these days. Hate is often used to describe anything that you merely don’t like. We also see it used to describe people merely disagree with others. These uses are not accurate, but rather hyperbole. So what is “hate?” **Hate is the passionate or hostile disliking of someone or something.** Hate is more than merely disliking something, there is a quality to it that is intense that has a consuming effect on you.

Defining World

The other word that needs defining in this passage is “world.” The Scriptures use the word “world” in a number of ways, but there is most certainly a specific usage in view in these verses. When the word “world” is used in a negative or hostile context, as it is here, it refers to the **world system that lives in active rebellion towards God.** It isn’t speaking to the physical earth, but to **the controlling mentality of unbelieving mankind that stands in opposition to God.**

Why Does the World Hate Followers of Christ?

So with these definitions as a foundation we might ask, why does the world hate Jesus and His followers? Jesus lists 4 reasons in our text.

1. We Stand in Contrast to the World (vs. 19)

The first reason that Jesus gives is that we stand in contrast to the world or as Jesus says, “we are not of the world.”

John 15:19

[19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Jesus explains that if we were “of the world” the world would not hate us. You see, the issue is that lives that have been transformed by the Gospel stand in contrast to the world around them.

Cain and Able Illustration

John illustrates this in his first epistle with the lives of Cain and Able...

1 John 3:12-13

[12] We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. [13] Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you.

Why did Cain kill his brother? Why did Cain hate Able? He hated that Able was living righteously. **Cain felt condemned by Able's very existence.** Cain wanted to live on his own terms, not God's, and the fact that Able submitted to the instruction of God drove Cain crazy.

Fruit of the Spirit = Reminding Others of Their Sin

Christian, the mark of true, saving faith, is a transformed life. Proof that the Gospel has taken root in your heart is that you strive to live for Jesus. Know this, **when you live for Jesus it won't always make people happy. When following Jesus means that you swim against the current of the culture you live in you are going to remind others of their own sin.** Rather than using this reminder as catalyst to repent many in the world would rather suppress their guilt with hate and anger pointed towards you. **They will rationalize that you are the one who is making them feel bad, thus they have right to be angry and even hate you.**

D.A. Carson summarizes this truth by saying,

“The world is a society of rebels, and therefore finds it hard to tolerate those who are in joyful allegiance to the king to whom all loyalty is due.”

-D.A. Carson (Pillar Commentary)

2. The World Hated Jesus First (vs. 20)

Jesus goes on to explain in an argument from greater to lesser that the world has hated Him, so surely they will hate us as well.

John 15:20

[20] Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

The argument from greater to lesser comes in when Jesus explains that a servant is not greater than his master, meaning that the servant will not get to enjoy benefits or avoid consequences that the master doesn't. Thus if Jesus was hated, if Jesus suffered, if Jesus was persecuted then we, as His followers, can expect to be hated, suffer, and be persecuted for our faith.

Many Wanted to Kill Jesus for Message

We don't have to think back too far in our study of the Gospel of John to remember the many times that people have tried to take the life of Jesus. We don't have to look too far forward to see it either as Jesus says this on the eve of His murder.

We Carry the Same Message

When we are faithful to live for Jesus and proclaim His message we shouldn't be surprised when we too are hated. **If Jesus who is perfect found Himself hated we shouldn't be shocked when we are as well.**

3. The World Doesn't Know God (vs. 21)

The next reason that Jesus gives for the hate that is directed to His followers from the world is that the world doesn't know God. Jesus says this in verse 21, the world doesn't know the One who sent Jesus, thus they hate Him and us.

John 15:21

[21] But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

The idea that Jesus is communicating is that had they known God, when they saw Jesus, they would have embraced Him b/c they would have seen God in Him. If the world knew God they would have seen Jesus and recognized God.

Active Opposition Towards God

The issue goes deeper than merely not knowing God. The Scriptures reveals that the world stands in active opposition to God.

Romans 8:7

[7] For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Verse 23 of our passage reiterates this...

John 15:23

[23] Whoever hates me hates my Father also.

The world has shown hate towards Jesus and this reveals their hate for God. So when we live for the glory of God, when we live for the pleasure of God, when we live in obedience to God, should we be surprised that the world will reject us, hate us, even persecute us? No.

Quick Gospel-Centered Heart Check

Let me make just a quick Gospel-centered statement to ensure we stay grounded in this study. The world opposes God, yes that is true, **but don't think yourself better. If you are follower of Jesus, know this, you were once of the world. You once lived in the same spirit of opposition and hate that we read of in this passage. It is only by the grace of God that you have been transformed,** as Jesus said, He chose us out of the world.

Don't Make the World Your Enemy

When we study passages like this and read of the world's hostility towards God **I think it can be easy to think of the world as our enemy. That shouldn't be the position we take. While we stand against the world in many ways we never do so out of a spirit of hostility,** rather we do so out of love for God and His glory and in the midst of that we need to **carry a love for the lost world because God loves them,** despite their hate. We once lived in the darkness they walk in. We know the hopelessness. We know the blinding power of sin. And we should desire to see them rescued and redeemed, right?

4. Jesus' Words and Life Condemns the World (vs. 22-24)

The final reason that is given in our text concerning why the world hates Jesus and His followers is that both the words and the life of Jesus condemns the world. We see this in verse 22 and 24.

John 15:22-24

[22] If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [23] Whoever hates me hates my Father also. [24] If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

When Jesus says that without His words and actions the world wouldn't have been guilty of sin He isn't speaking of sin in general here. Humanity was guilty of sin before the coming of Jesus, **but now that Jesus has come and delivered the message of God and revealed the person of God in a new and heightened way the world is now guilty of rejecting God at a new level.**

Forcing a Decision

You see, Jesus' words and actions, His revelation of God, confront all people with a decision. We either see Him for who He is and worship Him or we deny Him. When Jesus is the only hope for the sin-riddled soul rejecting Him is turning away the one antidote needed when poison is coursing through your veins. Rejecting Jesus is accepting condemnation.

Suppressing the Truth to Hold Their Sin

The world at one level or another understands this. As Romans 1:18 says, **the unbelieving world suppresses the truth and knowledge of God as they would rather hold on to the lies that sin is telling them.** Part of coping with this reality of condemnation and guilt is hate. This is one of the reasons why the world hates Jesus. His message and life condemns them.

Proclaiming Jesus' Words and Actions

And by the transitive property, we are hated as well since we continue to carry the message of Jesus; divine person and gracious gospel. Jesus reaffirms this in verses 26-27...

John 15:26-27

[26] "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

So the Holy Spirit is coming to dwell within believers to testify to the truth of who Jesus is and empower us to go and share the good news as well.

Bad News Before Good News

But again, as we share the good news, as we tell others about Jesus, we will incur hate from others according to Jesus. While the message of the Gospel is good news, it also reveals the bad news of the damning effects of sin before a holy and just God. Again, the Gospel is good news, it is hope out of this eternally awful situation. **But for those who love living life on their terms, who love their sin, it doesn't feel like good news. They can't see it as good news as they are clinging tightly to the lies that their sin has told them.** Thus to talk as a Christian, to live as a Christian, is to confront the world with their condemned state apart from Jesus.

Side Note: Don't Be a Jerk

Let me make one quick side note on this topic of the world hating Jesus and His followers. **Not every reason you will be hated in this life relates to your faith. Sometimes the world will hate you simply because you are a jerk. Don't be a jerk and don't waive the persecution flag when you are just hard to be around because you are condescending, rude, or selfish.** Ok, side note complete.

Hate Leads to Persecution

So Jesus has shared 4 reasons why the world hates Him and us by association. He also shares what comes from this hate, which is persecution. We see this in verse 20, when He says, "if they persecuted me, they will persecute you."

Little Knowledge in America

Persecution is something that Christians in America have known little of in the history of our nation. As Jesus speaks to His 11 Disciples here He knows that **10 of the 11 He speaks to would die for Him**, with the 11th dying in exile for the name of Jesus. These men would have their lives regularly endangered for the name of Jesus.

Shifting Landscape, Be Ready

While very few Christians in America have ever faced that level of persecution **the landscape of our country is shifting** before our very eyes. Where Christians used to live in the majority when it came to the moral values that were held that is no longer the case. **As culture continues to shift away from a Christian ethic and morality we will only stand out further**, which is wonderful in many ways as it comes to proclaiming Jesus, but it will also make us targets for persecution as we will be the object of much hate.

HATED BY THE RELIGIOUS WORLD (16:1-4a)

Jesus continues on with the theme of hate as we enter into John 16. Let's read the first 4 verses there once more...

John 16:1-4a

[1] "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. [2] They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. [3] And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. [4] But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

So it isn't only the world that will hate and persecute the followers of Jesus, it is also the religious world. What you need to remember about the immediate cultural context that Jesus and His Disciples found themselves in is that they were in a deeply religious context. **They lived in Jewish communities. These communities were both ethnically Jewish and spiritually Jewish. This added to the complexity of their conversion to Jesus. You see, the ethnic and spiritual aspects of Judaism were tightly woven together.** They intermingled to the point where separating them was difficult.

Connectedness of Ethnic and Spiritual Israel

So when the Disciples would announce their faith in Jesus as the Messiah that would put a huge wedge between them and the rest of the Jewish community. This was not a community they could just up and leave though. When we think about it from our perspective we think, "OK so they would have to go and

find a new church now.” But no, it is far more complicated than that. The group of people impacted by this spiritual wedge would extend to every aspect of their social lives, their families, their friends, their employers, everything.

Social Expulsion

When we read that they would be put out of the synagogues, this isn't a small statement saying they couldn't go to their old Jewish temple any longer. This was a statement of social excommunication or expulsion. This was a big deal.

Martyrs

The persecution they would face at the hands of the religious crowds would go further than that though. Their very lives would be threatened. Jesus says that there would be those in the religious world that would try to kill Christians for their faith and think they were doing God a service in doing so.

Example: Paul and Stephen

Paul is the chief example of this. Paul hated Christians and oversaw the murder and martyrdom of Stephen. As He watched Stephen die He thought he was doing God a service by stamping out another heretic.

But Why?

But why is it that the religious world would also carry hate and pursue persecution of Christians? Shouldn't other religions see Christianity sympathetically as we are all groups that believe we have found a higher meaning in life?

Don't Know God, Threatened by the Exclusive Claims

Jesus gives us an answer as to why the religious world hates Christ and His followers in 16:3. It is because they, like the secular world, don't truly know God. They believe they do, but are mistaken. The god that they follow is an idol of their own making. **The divine person and teachings of Jesus, the gracious Gospel disrupts their tightly held beliefs, telling them that Jesus is the way, the only way, the truth, the only truth, and the life, the only life. You cannot find your way to God apart from Jesus.**

The exclusive claims of Jesus call every aspect of other religions into question. **Blinded by the lies of their idolatry the religious world opposes Christianity.**

APPLICATION

So Jesus has laid out to His Disciples how they will be hated and why it is they will be hated and what that is going to result in. What is the point? What is the take away?

Count the Cost of following Christ

It is primarily this... Following Jesus will come with a cost, **there will be cost involved.** Know that coming in. Know that following Jesus **won't solve all of your immediate problems. It will solve your deepest and eternal problems,** it will right your relationship before God, it will save you into a new faith family, but it will also cause conflict in your relationships with the unbelieving world. We are not out looking for conflict or disruption, but this is what the Gospel brings, right? The Gospel proclaims that you are dead in your sins, that you are lost, that you stand condemned apart from Jesus. **And while**

the Gospel provides a gracious solution there are many who don't want a solution, they want their sin and to be left alone in it.

Brace Yourself

So Christian, as our country, as our culture, turns from Jesus more and more, brace yourself. Know that that you will be hated without a cause, just as Jesus was. You will following the footsteps of Jesus' suffering more and more.

Incredible Opportunities

Know this as well, this sad reality is one that **provide an incredible backdrop for us to display the love of Jesus.** This is what Jesus did with all the hate that was directed towards Him, isn't it?

1 Peter 2:21-23

[21] For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. [22] He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. [23] When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Jesus displayed love as hate was heaped upon Him. He gave of Himself and returned good for the evil that has been thrown at Him. **In doing this Jesus purchased our salvation. In doing this you will point others to the salvation you have found in Jesus.**

Return Evil with Good

You will be hated, but when that happens return that hate with love. Here is Paul's guidance for us...

Romans 12:14-21

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. [17] Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [20] To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

God loves to bring about good out of the evil works that men do. May our love for those who hate us be that good.

LOVED BY GOD (15:18-16:4)

Our passage's primary theme is most certainly that of hate, but **buried underneath all of these warnings of hate and persecution are promises of love. While the world will often hate us the reason we can count that cost and continue on in following Jesus is because God loves us dearly.** We see this in a number of places in our passage.

1. Chosen by Jesus (15:19)

The first place we see this is in verse 19, when Jesus says...

John 15:19

[19] If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

The focus of Jesus' statement here is that we are not of the world because we have been chosen out of it, but what is foundational in this statement is that we have been chosen by God. **This speaks of God's gracious and sovereign initiation of our salvation. We don't know the purposes of God in His sovereign election, but we know it is a loving purpose,**

We looked at these verses in the last couple of weeks, but they are appropriate here once again...

Ephesians 1:3-5

[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, [4] even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,

His choice of us unto salvation was a choice made in love.

The world may hate us, but God loves us and He has loved us from eternity past and will love us for all eternity in Christ.

2. Children of God (15:19)

When we continue to look at verse 19 we see Jesus making a comparison, saying that we are not of the world because we have been chosen out of it. Jesus is telling us that we no longer belong to the world as we once did. What is implied in this statement is that we belong elsewhere. Where do we belong now?

Romans 8:15-17

[15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

We belong to God. We are His children! We have been adopted into His family (there is that idea of being chosen again). **The King of kings and Lord of lords is now our Dad!**

The world may hate us, but God loves us as a father loves His children.

3. Knowing God (15:21)

God's great love for us is seen further in verse 21...

John 15:21

[21] But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

The world doesn't know God, but what is implied in these words is that we, as believers, do know God! How marvelous is this? We know God!

He Had to Make the First Move

This testifies to God's love. **The only way that a finite being like us could come into knowledge of or relationship with God is if He were to make the first move and reach out to us.** The only reason we know God is because He wants to be known by us.

The world may hate us, but God loves us enough to reveal Himself to us. We know God!

4. Forgiven by God (15:22-23)

God's love for us is also seen in that our guilt has been removed. Look at verses 22-24 once again...

John 15:22-24

[22] If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. [23] Whoever hates me hates my Father also. [24] If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father.

Here Jesus is speaking of the guilt that the world carries because of their sin. He explains that they have no excuse for their sin. They will stand before God and give account for it one day. **As has been the case throughout the passage, we as believers stand in contrast to this situation. Our sin has been forgiven** and wiped clean. We are no longer guilty because Jesus accepted our guilty plea for us that we might accept His righteousness.

Love that Sacrificed – John 3:16

We are truly loved by God. He loved us enough to send His Son and offer Him up as a sacrifice on our behalf that we might find forgiveness. In Christ, **God has eternally solved our greatest problem and purchased our unending joy.**

The world may hate us, but God loves us with a merciful heart that forgives and saves.

5. Indwelt by God (15:26-27)

God's love is also seen in that way He stays with us in the midst of hardship...

John 15:26-27

[26] "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. [27] And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

God has sent us the Holy Spirit that He would testify of the truth of Jesus within us. I love that Jesus inserts this statement about the Spirit here sandwiched between these two sections on how the world will hate us. Jesus is telling us the truth of the cost of following Him, but He also reminds us of the fact that **we won't walk this path alone.** He is sending another, the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and to testify to the truth of who He is that we might live for Him, even when it is difficult.

The world may hate us, but God loves us enough to never leave us, even when things get ugly.

6. Sustained by Jesus (16:1)

Finally, we see the love of Jesus on display in 16:1 when He reveals how He is working to sustain us in the midst of suffering.

John 16:1

[1] "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

Jesus cares about you. He cares about your faith. He cares about your eternal destiny.. He knows that following Him isn't easy and He doesn't carry a "suck it up and deal with it attitude."

Isaiah 42:3

[3] a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He sees you in the fragile state that you are often in and in those moments of suffering He will give you what you need to persevere. **He is at work to sustain you and keep you close to Him.** The words that He has offered up in the Farewell Discourse were meant to aide His followers in just that way.

The world may hate us, but Jesus tenderly loves us, sustaining us in our fragility.

SUMMARY

Stop and consider all of the rich ways that we find ourselves loved by God. We are overwhelmingly blessed. We need to **hold on to these truths tightly** as they will keep us close to Jesus when we are forced to count the cost of following Him.

Jesus is Worth It

Jesus promised hate. He promised persecution. None of that sounds fun or pleasant to me, but when I consider what I have in Jesus there is nothing in this world that could cause me to leave Him. He is worth any hardship.

Better Than Life / Surpassing Worth

Brothers and Sisters, you will be hated by this world, but oh the depths of the riches of the love that we share in Christ. His love is better than life. His love is of surpassing worth.

Psalm 63:2-3

[2] So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. [3] Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

Philippians 3:8

[8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

May this be our heart, even in the face of persecution and hate.