

LOVED AND HATED

John 15:18–16:4

Tags

The Gospel of John, Jesus, world, hate, love, own, chose, remember, the word, servant, master, persecuted, my word, sent, spoken, guilty, sin, no excuse, Father, works, written, Law, fulfilled, Helper, Spirit of truth, proceeds, bear witness, witness, from the beginning, falling away, synagogues, the hour, kills, offering, service to God

Introduction

The announcement of Jesus' departure hit like a ton of bricks. Confusion and sadness fill the disciples as their minds race to conceive of what life without Jesus will be like. Jesus encourages his disciples and instructs them on how to cope with his absence. He gave the promise of the Holy Spirit who will help and them and be with them forever. However, Jesus wanted his disciples to understand the cost of following him. If Jesus was viciously opposed by the people of his time, despite his loving ministry and godly life, his followers should expect hostility and persecution from the world as well.

According to Jesus, there is no such thing as Christianity without persecution. Christians should expect to be LOVED AND HATED at the same time. The way we live should result in praise for good works and persecution for following Jesus and his word. In the trials, we are not alone. We have a Helper and he will witness to us and through us.

Outline

Being surrounded by haters does not give Christians permission to be hateful (vv. 18-20).

The world will not hate a false Christianity that looks and sounds no different (v. 21).

The world shuts its eyes to the blinding light of God's revelation and runs to darkness (vv. 22-25).

The Holy Spirit bears witness to you and through you (vv. 26-27).

Following Jesus is never finished (v. 1).

Religion can be weaponized for evil purposes (v. 2-3).

Remember Jesus in the hour of trial (v. 4).

Application

Does your life look different from the world?

Who needs your witness for Jesus?

Are you using your Bible to remember the words of Jesus?

Questions

1. What expectations does Jesus give for Christians today when it comes to our relationship to the world (vv. 18-21)? (2 Timothy 3:12; James 4:1-10)
2. How should a Christian engage lost people who have a different worldview? Are there any strategies that you find particularly helpful?
3. Explain how the Holy Spirit bears witness to us by the word and through us to others. (Mark 13:11; Acts 5:32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)
4. Name some ways that we can keep from falling away? In other words, how can we abide in Jesus? (John 15:1-11)
5. How should a Christian prepare for persecution? (1 Peter 4:12-19)