

Be Willing to Love and Prepare to Be Hated

John 15:12-27

From Pastor Phillip

The life of Jesus is surprising. The most loving man was the most hated and rejected by the world. In John 15:12-27, Jesus prepares his disciples that if they live like he did they will also be treated like he was. True believers who follow in Jesus' footsteps are called to love one another but must be prepared to be hated by the world.

I. True Believers Will Love One Another (vv.12-17)

- A. We should love sacrificially (vv.12-13)
- B. We should love as friends of God (vv.14-15)
- C. We should love because we are chosen (vv.16-17)

II. True Believers Will Be Hated by the World (vv.18-25)

- A. We are hated because the world hates Jesus (v.18)
- B. We are hated because Jesus chose us out of the world (v.19)
- C. We are hated because the world does not know God (vv.20-21)
- D. We are hated because Jesus exposes the world's sin (vv.22-24)
- E. We are hated because Scripture must be fulfilled (v.25)

III. True Believers Will Bear Witness About Jesus (vv.26-27)

- A. The Spirit helps us endure hatred and persecution (v.26)
- B. The Spirit helps us testify about Jesus (v.27)

FOR NEXT TIME—Read John 16:1-33, *Take Heart!*

TO DISCUSS WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

1. If "laying down your life for your friends" is the standard of love, how can we practically love our brothers and sisters in Christ on a weekly basis?
2. How can we protect against being isolated from the world *and* against fitting in with the world?
3. What are temptations we face when we are hated by the world? How can we protect against these temptations?
4. What are examples of how the apostles endured persecution and bore witness about Jesus through the help of the Holy Spirit? (Think through the book of Acts).
5. How will you seek to specifically apply John 15:12-27 in the coming month?