

**Hated by the World, Loved by God**  
**The Gospel of John: That You May Believe | John 15:18-16:4**  
Southern Hills Baptist Church  
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**Introduction/Context:** Over the past couple months we have been studying the Farewell Discourse, where Jesus has been preparing His Disciples for the life-altering and difficult days that are ahead. Up to this point Jesus has sought to build up and encourage His followers, but our passage today shifts in tone as Jesus begins to lay out the cost involved in following Him. While the warnings from Jesus are hard they are important for us to understand as we strive to follow Jesus faithfully, even in the face of hardship.

### **Hated by the World (15:18-27)**

- **Defining “Hate”:** With as flippantly as this word is used a definition is useful. Hate is the passionate or hostile disliking of someone/thing.
- **Defining “World”:** The Scriptures use this word in a number of specific ways. In this context the “world” refers to the controlling mentality of unbelieving mankind that stands in opposition to God.
- **Why Does the World Hate Followers of Jesus?**
  - **We Stand in Contrast to the World (15:19)**  
The mark of saving faith is a transformed life. Living righteously before others will often remind them of their own sin. Our very existence at times will make others feel condemned (1 Jn 3:12-13)
  - **The World Hated Jesus First (15:20)**  
Jesus makes an argument from greater to lesser. If the world hated Him first, in all His perfection and glory, should we ever suspect it would give us a pass when we carry His message?
  - **The World Doesn’t Know God (15:21, 23)**  
If the world knew God they would embrace and worship Jesus since He is God. We would all be in one unified pursuit of Jesus together. They don’t know God however and even stand in opposition to Him (Rom 8:7), thus they oppose us.
  - **Jesus’ Words and Person Condemns the World (15:22-27)**  
The words and actions of Jesus have condemned the world, not in a vindictive way mind you, but as Jesus has revealed Himself to be God through His words and actions, and the world has rejected Him, the world has signed their own guilty verdict. As we proclaim the person and message of Jesus we too will be hated.
- **Result of Hate:** The world’s hate will culminate in persecution. As the moral landscape of America shifts we can expect to see more of this.

### **Hated by the Religious World (16:1-4)**

- **Social Expulsion:** When Jesus says that His followers would be “put out of the synagogue” this was a reference to full social expulsion from their families, friends, and even the larger community.
- **Martyrdom:** The religious would even threaten the lives of believers, thinking they were serving God. Paul’s killing of Stephen serves as a good example of this.

### **Application – Living It Out**

- **Count the Cost:** There is a cost in following Jesus. Following Jesus will solve your deepest problems and give you your greatest blessings, but it will also bring conflict in relationships you have with the world.
- **Brace Yourself:** Know the hardship of hate and persecution is coming. Be not surprised when it strikes. Prepare now to live for Jesus.
- **Display the Love of God:** The backdrop of hate and persecution provides incredible opportunities to display the life-changing reality of the Gospel. When hate was heaped upon Jesus He turned the other cheek and gave more. In the midst of persecution Jesus purchased salvation. Perhaps when we face hate we can point others to that grace.

### **Loved by God (15:18-16:4)**

- **Chosen by Jesus (15:19):** God graciously and sovereignly initiated our salvation. While we don’t know His purpose in election we know that it was a loving purpose (Eph 1:3-5). The world may hate us, but God loves us and He has loved us from eternity past and will love us forever more.
  - **Children of God (15:19):** We were chosen out of the world, so where does that place us now? In the family of God (Rom 8:15-17). The world may hate us, but God loves us as a father loves His children.
  - **Knowing God (15:21):** The only way finite beings like us could know God is if He made the first move to reveal Himself. The only reason we know God is b/c 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!
  - **Forgiven by God (15:22):** We don’t carry the guilt the world does b/ we have found forgiveness in God’s greatest gift, Jesus. The world may hate us, but God loves us with a tender heart that forgives and saves.
  - **Indwelt by God (15:26-27):** God runs towards us in the Holy Spirit as hate and persecution are promised. The world may hate us, but God loves us enough to never leave us, even when things get ugly.
  - **Sustained by Jesus (16:1):** Jesus cares about you. He knows that following Him isn’t easy, thus He is at work to sustain you. The world may hate us, but Jesus tenderly loves us, sustaining us in our fragility.
- Messages available for download on iTunes or [www.southernhillslife.org](http://www.southernhillslife.org)