

CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The Gospel of John: The Deity and Teaching of Jesus Christ

"Hated by the World, Held by Christ"

John 15:18-25 NKJV

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet 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 keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Main Points

Instruction (2 Tim 3:16): What is God telling me?**Inspiration** (Romans 8:16): How is the Holy Spirit moving me?**Imitator of Christ** (Ephesians 5:1): How will I serve God by imitating Jesus?**My prayer this week:**

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Jesus says the world "loves its own." There are times it may feel easier to follow Him "inside the reef" (at church), but much harder when we face the world's current. Have you ever felt the pressure to "reflect" the world's values just to keep the water calm?
2. Jesus reminds us: "A servant is not greater than his master", yet we often feel personally offended or surprised when the world rejects our faith. What are some spiritual disciplines we can develop to help endure criticism that comes our way as a result of our faith?
3. Jesus says the world acts this way because "they do not know Him who sent Me." What's the difference between knowing religious information and truly knowing God—and how does that difference show up in daily decisions and character?
4. Jesus says that because He has spoken, they now have "no excuse for their sin." Why does the "Light" of God's Word often make people feel irritated or defensive rather than immediately grateful?
5. Jesus notes that they saw His miracles and still hated Him without a cause. Why is "more evidence" usually not enough to change a heart that is unwilling to surrender?

Living in a Hostile World

- 2 Timothy 3:12 — "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."
- 1 Peter 2:12 — "Having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."
- 1 John 2:15–17 — "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."

Our Identity & The Light

- 1 Peter 2:9 — "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."
- John 7:7 — "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil."
- Colossians 1:13 — "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

The Danger of Religion Without Relationship

- Matthew 7:22–23 — "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonderful works in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"
- Luke 12:48 — "But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

The Fulfillment of the Word

- Hebrews 1:3 — "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
- 1 John 2:23 — "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also."
- Psalm 69:4 — "Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it."