

July 2, 2023

Shining Through Hate

John 15:18-16:4

Jesus abruptly changes the topic in John 15:18 from love to hate. Believers, whose defining characteristic is love, are recipients of hate from the world. This hatred has the potential to do incredible harm in the lives of believers. Jesus does not want believers to be unaware of this hatred. In these verses, He tells us why the world will hate us and how we are to respond to this hate.

Additional Verses:

Psalm 5:5

Romans 8:18

2 Corinthians 5:7

1 Peter 2:9

Jude 20-23

Outline:

1. Why does the world hate believers?

-The world hates Jesus first.

-The world hates we are not of the world.

-The world hates we will not serve the world.

-The world hates the Father who sent Jesus.

-The world hates the exposure of their sins.

2. How are believers to respond to the world's hatred?

-Believers stay on mission.

-Believers stay in Jesus.

Study Questions:

1. What is the difference between the defining characteristic of the world and the church? Why is the world defined by hate?

2. Why does the world direct its hatred toward Jesus? How does Jesus expose their sins?

3. What is the greatest danger Christians face in living for Jesus? Why does Jesus warn Christians about this? How can Christians fight this danger?

4. How do believers respond to the world's hatred? What two responses can believers not demonstrate? Why?

5. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to God today?