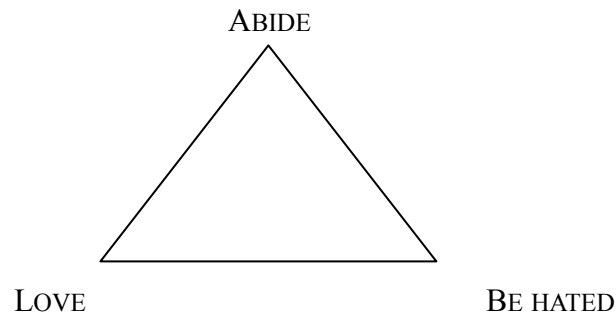


“Cultural Encounters”

John 15:17 -- 16:4a Lesson #8

Progression of relationships in John 15 ---



“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you.”

John 15:18

- Identification of the “world” –
John 3:16 (quote) Luke 6:27 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Be careful – the world that hates us is not the same as the world we should not love.

Word Study: “world” kosmos.

- 1) created world (universe)
- 2) world of humanity (people)
- 3) world system (attitude and system that opposes God and Christ)

Here in John 15, it’s the world system: the organized, humanistic society that leaves God out and replaces God with its own morals, standards and values.

The “world” is not so much people, or even things per se. It is the attitude and approach that passively leaves God out or actively rejects the truth about God, Christ, and the Bible.

John 17:14-16

"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

- Understanding the word “hate” –
The contrast between “hate” and “love” is vivid in John’s writings. In order to understand these words, we need to remove the idea of emotional and replace it with the volitional.

Love – choose to accept

Hate – choose to reject

Example: Rom. 9:13 (Malachi)

Here, in John 15, think of “hate” as rejection.

Luke 14:26 -- "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

1 Jn. 2:9 – "The one who says he is in the Light and *yet* hates his brother is in the darkness until now."

❖ **Why does the world hate Christ-followers? (15:18-20)**

BELIEVERS ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF THEIR IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS CHRIST, 15:18-20

Fact of hatred – 15:18

- A. Animosity is the permanent attitude of world toward Jesus Christ, 15:18
 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you."

If means let's assume this to be true – they will. It is a fact.

"Me before you" is not just first in time. The word "before" also means rank: the world hated Me, your Chief, your Leader."

Foundation of hatred – 15:19

- B. The world detests Christians because of the believer's identification with Jesus Christ, 15:19

"If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

1. World loves whatever conforms to it. (Rom. 12:2a; James 4)
2. World hates whoever is identified with Christ

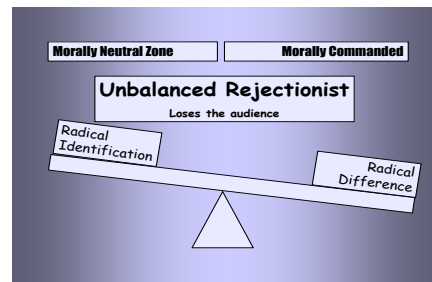
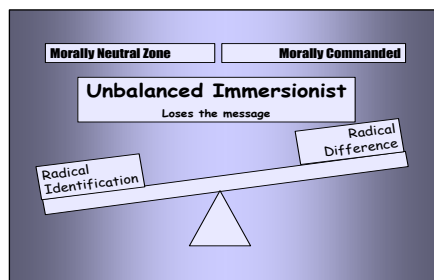
This is more about attitude of world (unbelievers) toward us, than it is about our attitude toward the world.

Our relationship with the world is not:

superiority

hostility

isolation (17:11, 14 -- in it but not of it)



Form of hatred – 15:20

C. Believers may expect the same treatment from the world that Jesus received, 15:20.

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave 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."

Compare: Matt. 5:10-12

"Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

What are some reasons that we might be mistreated or mocked by the world?

The only legitimate reason for being mistreated is our identification with JC.

1 Pet. 3:13-17

So what was Jesus persecuted?

❖ **Why did the world hate Jesus Christ? (15:21-27)**

CHRIST WAS PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE FATHER

The real reason Jesus Christ was persecuted (v.21): World failed to perceive that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh.

"But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me."

Five (5) witnesses to Christ's identification with the Father:

1. Words of Jesus, 15:22-23

"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also."

2. Works of Jesus, 15:24

"If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well."

Notice the parallel construction between verse 22 and verse 24:

If I had not come and spoken to them,
they would not have sin,
but now they have no excuse for their sin.

If I had not done among them the works which no one else did,
they would not have sin,
but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

When Jesus says “they would not have sin,” He is not saying that the world had no sin until He came. Rather, His words and works proved that Jesus is God, so that those who reject His identification reject God the Father. That rejection was/is expressed by their hatred for JC.

3. Their Law, 15:25

"But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.' "

Probably Psalm 69:4

4. Holy Spirit, 15:26

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,"

Credibility of this witness:

- 1] “Helper” is a legal term --- “Advocate.”
- 2] The Holy Spirit originates from God the Father.
- 3] The Holy Spirit is “the spirit of truth” -- his witness is true.
- 4] The Holy Spirit “proceeds from the Father” The Holy Spirit comes directly from God the Father and He knows God the Son.

5. Disciples, 15:27

“and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning”.

❖ **How does the Christian best prepare for this kind of hatred?** (16:1-4a)

◆ Prediction of the persecutions was designed to keep the disciples from giving up faith, 16:1.

A. Jesus predicted the persecution to be severe, 16:2a.

To be an “outcast from the synagogue” means that the person was excommunicated from the Jewish religious system. The general term for this was shammatta.

Three degrees of shammatta:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The final severity was death.

B. Jesus predicted the persecution to be senseless, 16:2b-3

◆ Prediction of the severity & senselessness was designed to prepare the disciples for that hour, 16:4a.

Next Week: John 16:4b-15 “Multiple Ministries of the Holy Spirit”

