

WORKOUT

JOHN 15:18-25

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Read all of John chapter 15, focusing on verses 18-25.

Ponder the contrast of Jesus's love for us and our command to love one another in verses 12-17 with the focus on being hated by the world in verses 18-25.

- What does it mean to be hated by the world?
- Why did the world hate Jesus (7:7)?
- What is the danger of being loved by the world? (15:19; 1 John 4:5-6)
- In John 15:19, Jesus says, "I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." In 1 Timothy 3:7, Paul says that elders who are above reproach "must be well thought of by outsiders." Since these qualifications for elders are worthy pursuits for every Jesus follower, what does it mean to be both "well thought of" and "hated"? How do these two relate? How do they inform how Christians ought to relate to the world?
- Why is it important that the reason we are hated by the world is that we have been chosen out of the world (15:19)? Consider the implications of being set apart from the world for your everyday life.



Pray Holistically

Read John 15:18-19 and pray for the church's boldness to live set apart from the world.

- Pray that we would be like Peter and John in Acts 4:20 who cannot help but speak of Christ.
- Pray that we would not be enticed by the world or tempted to compromise our identity as Jesus followers in order to become more like the world, or more liked by the world.
- Read Colossians 4:5-6. Pray that we would be wise and gracious even to those who would hate us.

Pray Personally

Read John 16:1 and Hebrews 3:12. Pray against the evil and unbelieving heart that would lead you to fall away from the living God. Pray that the trials of being hated by the world as Jesus was hated would lead you to deeper submission, and that you would not harden your heart.

- Father, when you spoke to the disciples in John 15-16, you told them things so that they would not fall away. In Hebrews 3 you tell us to take care lest there be in any of us an evil and unbelieving heart that leads us to fall away from you. Help me to be on guard against the dangers of this hardness of heart. If the world hates me, let me take comfort in that it first hated your Son. If I am reviled and cursed, help me to submit to you as my ultimate authority and to trust in you as the Father who loves me. Guard me from the pride that would think I would never fall away. When the world hates me, may I run to your Word that I may remember what you have spoken.



Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Whoever believes in Jesus abides in Him.

"Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master'" (15:20).

- If we are His disciples, we have been served by Jesus and also ought to serve one another (13:12-16). We should not expect a life where others serve us, when our Savior came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). If we are His disciples, we should not expect to be treated better by the world than He was.
 - Remember Jesus's example of service and love for us as one that is not for our mere earthly gain (13:8-16; 13:34-35). This week, look for opportunities to serve someone in a way that does not just bring earthly benefit or good, but that builds them up into Christlikeness.
- "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (13:20). The world hates Jesus because He testifies to it that its works are evil (7:7). All who desire to live a godly life will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12).
 - This week, look for opportunities to expose and call out evil works. Remember Isaiah 5:20, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." Be bold to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- "If they kept my word, they will also keep yours" (13:20). Remember John 8:51, "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."
 - This week, look for opportunities to boldly proclaim the Word of God and invite others to respond in belief to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (1:29).