

John 15:18-16:6

Though Hate is Strong and Mocks the Song (I Still Hear the Bells on Christmas Day)

Pt. 2

INTRO: How is hatred and persecution related to Christ's urgent call to *love one another*?
(John 15:12-16:6; 2 Timothy 3:12; and Matthew 10:16-42)

Summary of last Sunday's introductory message:

A) Jesus expects His true disciples to **love** one another as He loves them (John 15:12; 13:34-35).

B) We should expect to be mistreated and even _____ by the big, bad world, because of Him. (John 15:17f; John 7:7)

I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution (3 Core Truths)

1) A Defining Mark of Fallen Humanity is HATE.

(note Titus 3:3; Gal. 5:19-21; note last Sunday's sermon)

2) Like Satan, unbelievers _____ what they should love and love what they should

_____ . *(note 2 Timothy 3:1-4; Jn. 15:7-16:6; Is. 5:20-21; Rom. 1:18-32)*

I) A Biblical Theology of Hatred and Persecution

3) Non-Christians *hate* believers for getting in the way of their favorite vices and for rejecting their _____ and/or false gods.

Merry Christmas! *Though Hate is Strong and Mocks the Song
(I Still Hear the Bells on Christmas Day)*

7 Rapid Fire Reminders from God's Word

- 1) **Do not despair dear Christian, for in the end** 1) _____ **prevails** and
2) _____ **conquers all!** (Mt. 24-25; Rom. 8:18-39)

If you're not a Christian, 3) **Don't confuse God's patience as** _____
(John 3:16-36; 2 Peter 3; Romans 3-5).

How Long, O Lord? (Rev. 6:10/Ps. 71). Fear not! 4) **Perfect** _____ **will be served!**
(Gal. 6:7-10; Rom. 2:5-11)

5) **In the darkest of nights, the Light of Christ shines brightest.**

6) **The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not** _____ **it!**
(John 1:1-18).

For Further Reflection/Application: *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

Before going over your sermon notes, listen to Casting Crown's version of, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. As we consider what's happening all around us, Christians today can easily relate to the lyrics, "And in **despair** I bowed my head, 'There is no peace on Earth,' I said. For **hate** is strong and mocks the song/ of peace on Earth, good will to men. But the bells are ringing (peace on Earth). Like a choir singing (peace on Earth). Does anybody hear them?" Hold that thought.

The Master masterfully contrasts *love and friendship* (in John 15:12-17) with *hatred and persecution* in John 15:18-16:6. Why is it vitally important that Jesus' disciples treat fellow believers like beloved Christian friends and family? (See also 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-16; Matthew 10:16-42)

Why do unrepentant sinners hate the real Jesus? Memorize John 7:7b. Also note John 3:16-21; 36.

How can so many unbelievers in our country claim to like Jesus (or I'm cool and/or indifferent towards Him)? Faithful Christian witnesses must bear witness of *the biblical Jesus!* We have 4 inspired Gospels accounts for a reason. May we all be growing in the knowledge and grace of Christ Jesus.

Provide some recent examples of hatred/persecution against Bible-believing Christians (near and far). To illustrate the relevance of John 15:18f what contemporary examples did Pastor Caleb mention?

How has the world redefined the beautiful, biblical word "love?" Do you remember the difference between righteous anger and sinful hatred? If not, review last Sunday's notes. Never forget that "We love Him (and each other) because He first loved us." See John 1:14; 3:16-17; 1 John 4:19-21.

True disciples, take up their cross daily and follow Jesus (Luke 9:23-26). For many American Christians our persecution looks and sounds more like Matthew 5:11-12 more than John 16:1-3; at least for now.

What biblical truths are most hated and despised in the big, bad world today? What are some ways you're tempted to compromise in order to avoid hatred and/or persecution? How does the Holy Spirit (note John 14; see Acts 4-5) and Jesus' words in John 15 inspire you to be faithful and courageous?

A defining mark of depraved/fallen humanity is sinful hatred. Note last week's msg. and key proof texts: Titus 3:3 and Gal. 5:19-21.

What are some examples of how unbelievers hate what they should love and love what they should hate? Note also Is. 5:20-21 and 2 Tim. 3:1-4. Sinful hatred loathes God, God's holy attributes, God's holy Son, God's Holy Spirit, God's holy Plan, God's Holy Word, and God's holy people! By the grace of God in Christ, born again Christians love what the lost world hates. Note Eph. 2:1-10; 1-2 John.

What are some contemporary examples and some historical examples that underscore the third core truth?

How have you personally suffered for righteousness sake beloved?

Review the 6 Rapid Fire Reminders from God's Word mentioned during the sermon conclusion. Which one did you find to be most helpful/encouraging/convicting and why?

In a dark world full of hate, what should bring a despairing believer peace, hope, and joy? "Then rang the bells louder and deeper *God is not dead, nor doth He sleep* (Peace on Earth) *The wrong shall fail, the right prevail*. With peace on Earth, good will to men." Isaiah 9:6-7; Rev. 19-21; Matt. 24-25.

When you're discouraged rehearse the lyrics in songs like *Joy to the World*, *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, *the Hallelujah Chorus*, and *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*.

Related Resources- *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution* by Carl R. Trueman.

A REVIEW OF OUR JOHN 15 SERMON SERIES

Thus far we've considered Jesus' Extended Garden/Vineyard Metaphor. In John 15:1-8:

- A) God the Son is the True Vine; (John 15:1a, 4-5, 7)
- B) God the Father is the Master-Gardener; (John 15:1b-2)
- C) Counterfeit Christians are the Fruitless Branches; (John 15:2a, 6; Mt. 3:12; Jn 13:21-30)
- D) Genuine Disciples are the Fruit-bearing Branches; (John 15:2b-3, 5, 8;)

By their *fruits* you shall know them is Jesus Christ's "own canon of sacred criticism."

Jesus' teaching in John 15:9-12 on "Love and Obedience" is a 5- Stranded Cord.

The following 5 "cords" are interwoven and interconnected:

- 1) The Blessings of Union with Christ include peace, joy, and love.
- 2) Abiding in Christ's Love enables believers to bear even more fruit.
- 3) Believers remain in Christ's love through heartfelt obedience.
- 4) Heartfelt Obedience is the overflow and evidence of sincere love for Christ.
- 5) The Love of God in Christ motivates and compels us to sacrificial love and good deeds.

Jesus' sermon on Love and Friendship in verses 12-17 highlights 3 Great Truths

- 1) The Savior's *sacrificial* love is the model for His friend's *mutual* love.

(*John 15:12-14*; Rom. 5:6-8; Col. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:32)

- 2) Jesus' Friends are Granted VIP access (insider information) concerning the Master's Affairs.

(*John 15:15*; 16:12; Matt. 11:25-27)

- 3) The Sovereign King Handpicks His Friends and Calls Each of Them/Us to Love & Good Deeds.

(*John 15:16*; 6:63-70a; Eph. 1-2)

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