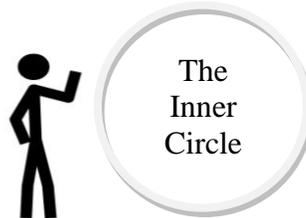


## Loved and Hated

### John 15:18-27/#theheartofJesus

*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (John 15:26)*

Most of us still have this longing to belong, to be accepted, to be a part, to fit into this world. C.S. Lewis says, “From infancy to extreme old age, one of the most dominant elements in a person’s life is the desire to be inside that inner ring, and one of the greatest terrors known to us is the possibility of being left on the outside of that inner ring.”



In the Upper Room Discourse, Jesus has some hard comments about where we are as Christians in relationship to this inner circle of the world. Jesus says that we are exactly where He is -- on the outside. Jesus uses very emphatic terms to describe our relationship to the world, He says: **the world hates us.**

In John 15:18-27 Jesus gives these broken and confused disciples some very important truths that will guide their very powerful ministry. Jesus answers two critical questions: 1) Why are we hated? and 2) What’s our response?

### **We are called to take Jesus’ love and Spirit into a hateful world.**

<sup>18</sup> *"If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup> If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you do not belong to the world, but I chose you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember what I told you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they obeyed my word, they will obey yours too. <sup>21</sup> But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me. <sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But they no longer have any excuse for their sin. <sup>23</sup> The one who hates me hates my Father too. <sup>24</sup> If I had not performed among them the miraculous deeds that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen the deeds and have hated both me and my Father. <sup>25</sup> Now this happened to fulfill the word that is written in their law, 'They hated me without reason.'* (15:18-25)

#### **1. We are hated because of our relationship to Christ. (John 15:18-25)**

Jesus points out over and over and over that the world’s hatred of us has everything to do with the world’s hatred of Him. **We are hated by association!** The World’s hatred of Christ started way before its hatred for us. If our lives, decisions, and attitudes were consistent with the world, the world would delight in us. The world loves its own. But the Lord Jesus Christ chose us. We belong to Him. Although we still minister in this world, our loyalty is to Christ not this world. The world is infuriated by this. The world will receive and keep our words only to the extent that they kept Christ’s words.

The Jews, whom Jesus is mainly referring to, were not worshipping the true God. If they had been worshipping the One who sent Christ, they would not have rejected Christ. Hall Harris explains these verses well, “Jesus is not saying that if he had not come and spoken to these people they would be sinless; rather he is saying that if he had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of the sin of rejecting him and the Father he came to reveal. Rejecting Jesus is the one ultimate sin for which there can be no forgiveness, because the one who has committed this sin has at the same time rejected the only cure that exists.”<sup>1</sup>

Kent Hughes further explains, “Jesus’ life, specifically through his word and his works, demonstrated by contrast how sinful the Jews were, and they hated him for that. His inner righteousness drew their abiding hostility because it revealed the shabbiness of their external goodness.”

<sup>1</sup> W. Hall Harris, [http://www.bible.org/page.php?page\\_id=2711](http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=2711)

In verse 25 Jesus quotes from one of David's Psalms (probably Psalm 69). The context of this Psalm is intense opposition, accusation, and attack despite David's innocence. In a few hours from when Jesus is sharing these words with His disciples, the world's hate will culminate in Christ's crucifixion.

<sup>26</sup> *When the Advocate comes, whom I will send you from the Father— the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father— he will testify about me,* <sup>27</sup> *and you also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.* (15:26-27)

## **2. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we share Christ in a hostile world. (John 15:26-27)**

The greatest fear in the disciples' hearts is being left as orphans (14:18). All of this hate talk about the world had to exasperate this fear even more—I can imagine they were thinking, “Not only are we going to be left as orphans, but we are left in an orphanage of kids that want to beat us!”

Jesus explains that you will never be alone. In this harsh world, Jesus calls this promised new Spirit the Paraclete, the Advocate and Spirit of Truth. The Paraclete exists to ensure we will never be left as orphans. He will come alongside of us and be our advocate and defender. As Jesus already said, this Spirit will reside with you and will be in you (14:17). In Matthew and Luke Jesus says, “Whenever they put you on trial, do not worry about what to say, it will be given to you in the perfect time, for it is not you speaking, but the Spirit will speak through you.” (Matt 10:18-20, Luke 12:11-12)

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*I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have trouble and suffering, but take courage—I have conquered the world.* (John 16:33)

We are simply not going to fit in. We can't accommodate or blend in. That's not our calling. We are called to take Jesus' love and Spirit into a hateful world.

Most people Jesus addressed rejected Him. Many we address will reject Jesus. But here's the clincher -- the Spirit of truth that comes from God will testify of Christ and Who He is. Jesus is explaining the amazing gift He is giving us. The Spirit will do the heavy lifting. We don't save anyone; it is the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin and the person's need for a Savior.

### **Into what specific area of this world is Jesus calling you to take His love and Spirit?**

Be of good cheer: the love of Christ and His Spirit of truth is more powerful than the hatred of this world!