

Love and Hate

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 15:12-15:4.

B. This chapter sets forth the basic priorities of life.

1. The relationship with the Lord—abiding.
2. The relationship to other believers—love one another.
3. The relationship to the world.

II. Jesus commands us to love one another.

A. This is a command.

B. Love must be deliberate.

C. We are to love as Jesus loved.

1. He laid down His life for us.
2. This means giving ourselves up for one another.

D. Jesus called His disciples friends.

1. This means He shared life with them.
2. We also must share with one another.

E. Love bears fruit by means of prayer.

1. We ought to pray for one another.
2. This is the means by which we love one another.

III. The world loves what conforms and hates what does not.

A. The world also persecutes the believer.

B. It actively seeks to get rid of Christian faith and teachers.

C. However, some will believe and respond to the gospel as they did with Jesus.

D. The church may never expect to win the mass to Christ.

E. Reasons for the attitude of hatred.

1. The world is ignorant of Jesus. They will actually think they are worshipping God.
2. Jesus revealed God, but men still hated Him without a cause.

F. God does not leave the world alone even when He is fully justified—He continues to bear a witness, as we ought.

1. Primarily this is the witness of the Holy Spirit.
2. We are to bear witness in addition to what we have experienced.

G. We are to remember when persecuted that Jesus predicted this.

Application questions:

1. Why does the world hate Christians?

2. How would you respond to someone who tells you that love is just a feeling?

3. What encouragement can we have in Jesus' words when we are persecuted? How have you been encouraged?
