

Session 15 Our Spiritual Identity as Sons of the Resurrection (Jn. 15:18-25)

I. WHY THE WORLD HATES JESUS' DISCIPLES (JN. 15:18-21)

- A. Jesus prophesied that the world would hate His disciples for three reasons (Jn. 15:18-25). First, because the world hated and persecuted Jesus (15:18, 20); second, because His disciples are no longer “of this world” (15:18); and third, because they do not know God (15:21).

¹⁸“If the world hates you...know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own [those who agree with them]. Yet because you are not of the world... therefore the world hates you...²⁰If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...²¹But all these things they will do to you...because they do not know Him who sent Me...” (Jn. 15:18-21)

- B. *The world hated Me before it hated you:* Jesus assured them that the people of the world would hate them because of their hatred for Him, and what He said (7:7), and that because they persecuted Him, they would surely persecute (15:20) any who were faithful to say what He said.

⁷“The world...hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil.” (Jn. 7:7)

- C. *You are not of the world:* The world hates His disciples because they are not of the world (15:19; 17:14). They did not agree with or affirm the values and lifestyle that is celebrated by the world. It was a new idea to them that “they were not of the world.” They were surely filled with wonder when they heard Him say to the hostile Jewish leaders that He was “not of this world” (Jn. 8:23). In other words, His citizenship was in heaven, He had access to God’s throne while living on the earth (seated in heavenly places), and His primary rewards were reserved for Him in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4).

²³...“You are of this world; I am not of this world.” (Jn. 8:23)

³...[we have] a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus...⁴an inheritance incorruptible... that does not fade away, reserved in heaven... (1 Pet. 1:3-4)

1. By the new birth we have joined Jesus in a new status with God as “those not of the world.”

2. For the first time He was saying, “What is true about Me not being of this world is now true of you.” He proclaimed this based on the fact that His resurrection would usher in a new era on that Sunday. Their new spiritual identity was to be sons of the resurrection—they were to see themselves, make decisions, and fix their hope on the many blessings related to the resurrection. On Tuesday that week, when the Sadducees asked Jesus a trick question about the resurrection (Lk. 20:28-33), He declared that His disciples are sons of the resurrection.

³⁵[Jesus said]...those who are considered worthy to attain to...the resurrection from the dead...³⁶they cannot even die anymore...being sons of the resurrection. (Lk. 20:34-36)

3. The New Testament apostolic gospel includes the call to be anchored in eternal perspective—knowing that our daily decisions have eternal consequences and rewards. Living for the age to come is foundational to loving God and people while facing the world’s hateful persecution and seductive temptations. We cannot walk through the maze of this world if we are not anchored in the age to come as the place of our primary reward and vindication.

- D. We distinguish between the three ways the Scripture uses the term, “world” (1 Jn. 2:3; cf. Jn. 3:16).
1. **Sinful lusts:** John defined the world as “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life”—the pursuit of pleasures, possessions, and positions without reference to God’s will. The “world” here does not mean the physical earth but the sinful elements of human life.
¹⁵Do not love the world...¹⁶All that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. (1 Jn. 2:16)
 2. **Physical earth:** The “world” can speak of the physical earth. The command to “not love the world” is not a call to ignore the display of God’s excellence in creation—flowers, rivers, mountains, sunsets, etc. “God saw everything that He had made was very good” (Gen. 1:31).
 3. **Human race:** The “world” speaks of the people that live in the world or the human race. God “so loved the world” or the whole human race (Jn. 3:16).

II. OUR IDENTITY AS SONS OF THE RESURRECTION

- A. Our spiritual identity changed radically when we came into relationship with Jesus—we are forever in God’s family as the Bride of Christ (Eph. 5:32) and sons of the resurrection (Lk. 20:36). Our perspective of life radically shifts related to our life mission, eternal destiny and rewards, etc.
³⁶[Jesus said]...they cannot even die anymore...being sons of the resurrection. (Lk. 20:36)
¹⁸“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters...” (2 Cor. 6:18)
- B. Our citizenship is in heaven, we have access to God’s throne while living on earth in being seated in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), and our primary rewards are reserved for us in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4). We must see what realm we belong to—the invisible, eternal realm, not the visible or the temporal.
²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior... (Phil. 3:20)
⁴[you have] an inheritance incorruptible...reserved in heaven... (1 Pet. 1:4)
- C. We must live for eternal rewards since we will have a resurrected body longer than a natural body!!!
²⁰“but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...where thieves do not...steal.” (Mt. 6:20)
²⁴By faith Moses...²⁶esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. (Heb. 11:24-26)
²⁶For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father...then He will reward each according to his works. (Mt. 16:26-27)
¹¹Blessed are you when they revile...you...¹²for great is your reward in heaven... (Mt. 5:11-12)
- D. **More is given:** He emphasized this principle 5 times (Mt. 13:12; 25:29; Mk. 4:25; Lk. 8:18; 19:26).
²⁹“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.” (Mt. 25:29)

III. WE MUST NOT BE DEFILED BY THE WORLD'S HATRED NOR ITS TEMPTATIONS

- A. John elaborated on what Jesus meant by the term, “world” in his first epistle. He highlighted both the world’s seductive temptations (1 Jn. 2:16) and its hostile persecutions (1 Jn. 3:13). We must love and obey Jesus in the face of demonic opposition that permeates the whole world (1 Jn. 5:19).

¹⁵...if anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father...¹⁷The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. (1 Jn. 2:15-17)

¹³Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. (1 Jn. 3:13)

¹⁹We know that...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. (1 Jn. 5:19)

- B. The “world” is the realm in which Satan functions as the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).

⁴...whose minds the god of this age has blinded... (2 Cor. 4:4)

- C. Friendship with the world is enmity with God (Jas. 4:4-9).

⁴Adulterers and adulteresses [spiritual]...friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God...⁸Cleanse your hands...and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! (Jas. 4:4-9)

¹¹For the grace of God...has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly... (Titus 2:11-12)

- D. Part of God’s great plan is to allow us to be confronted with the things of the world that we might be strengthened to overcome them (15:20-25). The world is “the theater” to show our love to God. Those who faithfully proclaim the truths that Jesus taught will be attacked by those who hate Him.

¹⁹“...the world would love its own...²⁰If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours...²¹All these things they will do...because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²²If I had not...spoken to them, they would have no sin [national guilt]...²³He who hates Me hates My Father...they have...hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’” (Jn. 15:19-25)

- E. ***The world loves its own*** (15:19): The world loves only “its own.” They love others as long as others support what they believe and/or if it brings advantage to them. The love of the world is selfish and self-consumed. The world hates any who confront them with truth and warn them of judgment.

- F. ***If they kept My word, they will keep yours*** (15:20): Some will accept your words so keep speaking. Do not draw back in fatalistic retreat and isolationism concluding that all will reject you. It is not futile to speak, so speak with confidence, joyfully knowing that some will hear and believe.

- G. ***Because they do not know Him*** (15:21): Jesus explained why the world hates them—because they did not know God (we must not take their hatred of us personally) Many refuse to accept that they do not know God. The religious leaders in Jesus’ day prided themselves in their knowledge of God.

- H. People who hear the truth are responsible to receive it as truth (15:22-24). Israel had a long religious heritage filled with religious language and activities so they assumed that they were a nation that loved God and was right with Him. Since Jesus spoke truth and did miracles, Israel was responsible as a nation to respond with obedience. In saying, “they would have no sin,” Jesus is not making a theological statement contrary to Romans 3:23 (that “all have sinned”). He is not saying that they were all saved, but that Israel would not have had national guilt related to rejecting Him as Messiah.
- ²²***If I had not...spoken to them...²⁴If I had not done among them the works...they would have no sin*** [national guilt]; but ***now they have seen and hated...Me and My Father.*** (Jn. 15:22-24)
- I. ***He who hates Me hates My Father*** (15:23): Their rejection of Jesus was rejecting God. It is a deception for one to think that they love the God of the Bible while rejecting Jesus.
- ²³***...He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.*** (Jn. 5:23)
- ³⁰***He who is not with Me is against Me...*** (Mt. 12:30)
- J. Many think they love God while hating Jesus and what He said —without considering that Jesus only said what the Father told Him to say (Jn. 12:49; 14:10; 17:8).
- ⁴⁹***For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.*** (Jn. 12:49)
- ¹⁰***...The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*** (Jn. 14:10)
- ⁸***For I have given to them the words which You have given Me...*** (Jn. 17:8)
- K. ***They hate both Me and My Father*** (15:25): Hatred is hard to restrain; it is vented very easily. Many leaders in Israel hated Jesus because of what He said (Jn. 7:7) but they did not believe that they hated God. They hated the truth about Jesus’ deity, and His claim to be the only way of salvation, and to have the authority to determine right and wrong to judge the human race (Jn. 5:27)
- ⁷***The world...hates Me because I testify... that its deeds are evil.*** (Jn. 7:7)
- L. ***They hated Me without a cause*** (15:25): Jesus made reference to David’s psalms (Ps. 35:19; 69:4) that prophetically foreshadowed the Messiah being hated “without a cause.” Jesus did enough to make them responsible (15:22, 24) so that when they hated Him, they did it without any cause. There is no reason for any to hate Jesus except that “men love darkness” (Jn. 3:19-20).
- ²⁵***This happened that the word might be fulfilled...They hated Me without a cause.*** (Jn. 15:25)
- ¹⁹***This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness...***
- ²⁰***For everyone practicing evil hates the light...lest his deeds should be exposed.*** (Jn. 3:19-20)
- M. The prophetic Scriptures made clear that it is was not God’s plan for people to hate the Messiah, but that they hate Him “without a good reason.” God gave Israel and many others throughout history enough revelation so that, if someone hates Jesus, they do it without any cause except their sin. Jesus manifested such a beautiful and attractive revelation of the Father so that if anyone hates Him, they do so without reason. There’s nothing in Jesus to make a man hate Him.