



**Loving Our Neighbors  
Love the Way Jesus Taught It  
The Challenges of Love**

John 15:18-16:15 defines the Challenges of Love, warns us against its dangers, and encourages us to face them with hope.

**I. Bad News: The World Hates You! (15:18-27)**

**1 John 3:13** - *Do not marvel, brethren, if the world hates you.*

"Hate" = to have a strong aversion to, hate, detest. It is the opposite of love.

6 reasons why the world hates Christians:

a) Because the world hates Jesus (v. 18)

**John 15:18** - *If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*

b) Because you are not of the world (v. 19)

**John 15:19** - *If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*

c) Because the follower gets the same destiny of his master (v.20)

**John 15:20** - *Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.*

d) Because the world does not know the Father (v. 21)

**John 15:21** - *But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.*

e) Because the world hates the Father (v. 23)

**John 15:23** - *He who hates Me hates My Father also.*

f) Because of the testimony of Truth (vv. 24-25)

**John 15:24** - *If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. 25 But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, "They hated Me without a cause."*

**II. Warning: Get Ready! (16:1-4)**

a) Watch out for apostasy (v. 1)

**John 16:1** - *These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling.*

b) Challenges can get really bad (vv. 2-3)

**John 16:2-3** - *They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me.*

c) Challenges confirm our hope (v. 4a)

**John 16:4** - *But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them.*

### **III. Great News: You Have Help! (16:4b-15)**

a) The work of Christ guarantees great help (vv. 4b-7)

**John 16:4b-7** - *And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, "Where are You going?" 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

b) The Holy Spirit convicts the world (vv. 8-11)

**John 16:8-11** - *And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

c) The Holy Spirit reveals the Truth (vv. 12-15)

**John 16:12-15** - *I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.*

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the reason why the world hates you and also what empowers you to continue to love. It is through the Gospel that the Challenges of Love become the Opportunities to Love.