

Fellowship with the World or with Christ?

September 20, 2015

John 15:18-16:4a

I. Persecution comes to those who follow Christ

- A. Because we love those Christ loves (John 13:35; 15:9; 15:12-13)
- B. Because we do the works that Christ does (John 14:12; 15:14)
- C. Because we bear witness to Christ (John 15:27)
- D. Because we are vitally connected to Christ (John 15:5)
- E. What do we mean by “persecution”? (see Matthew 7:23; Mark 9:42; 15:6-15; 16:15; John 16:2; 19:16-18; Acts 7:58-60; 16:22; Hebrews 10:34; 11:35-38; 13:3)
- F. Are we being persecuted? (2 Timothy 2:11-13)

II. Persecution comes from hostility toward God

- A. The world does not know its Creator (John 15:21; Psalm 9:17; 14:1, 4; Romans 1:21; Matthew 7:23)
- B. The world hates its Creator (John 15:23, 25; Genesis 3:5)
- C. How can this be true?

III. Pay attention, so that you do not fall away

- A. Jesus’ warning to his closest disciples, in his generation (John 16:1)
- B. Jesus’ warning to all of his disciples in every generation (Matthew 13:19, 22; Luke 6:22-23; 1 Peter 1:13)

IV. Persecution comes with opportunities for witness

- A. Witness in the first generation (John 15:26-27; Acts 9:4-5)
- B. Witness in every generation (Mark 15:39; 1 Peter 4:19)