

STUDY NOTES

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

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The following content is based on the message “The World Hates You” on 10/8/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 15:1-12

BEARING FRUIT FROM ABIDING IN CHRIST

Jesus commands his disciples to bear a type of fruit that comes from abiding in him. That fruit is the same fruit of the Spirit that Paul talks about in Galatians 5:22. In the same sentence in John, Jesus says that we as his disciples can ask for anything in his name—but in relation to bearing fruit. Why? So that we can love one another.

- *What are some things you have heard people ask for “in Jesus name”?*
- *Looking at the list of the fruit of the Spirit, what do you think you need to ask for more of?*

THE WORLD HATES YOU

This love for our brothers and sisters takes on extra weight with what Jesus promises next. Jesus promises that the world will hate Christians. What is the world?

World: people associated with a system that is from God. If someone is of “the world” they will hate the things of God.

We need to remember the words of Jesus in 15:19: “If you are of the world, the world will love you as it’s own.” Jesus says this world has a ruler—Satan; and the ruler hates

the things of God. Of course, the world follows it’s ruler. “The world” is at odds with the Kingdom of God. These two things are like oil and water. They don’t mix.

Loving God brings about corresponding hate from the world.

- *What is your reaction to verse 19: “if you are of the world, the world will love you as it’s own.”?*
- *What do you think it means for Christians to be in the world, but not of the world?*

BUT FOR WHAT ARE YOU BEING HATED?

Most cult leaders have used this verse in John to justify their beliefs and their actions. We need to ask ourselves: Why are we being hated? Is it something that Jesus stood for, or are we being hated because we are holding onto something that Jesus never said we should?

The church spends a lot of time hating others in the church. Perhaps this is because we love the things of the world and not the things of God.

- *How have you seen the church pursue things that are not of God that led to justified hatred from the world?*
- *On the flip side, how have you seen that the church has/is trying to avoid being hated?*

BEARING WITNESS

We are called to be Christians and that means we will be different. There isn’t a cultural box that you can put us in, which means that it will be hard to bear witness to the things of Christ because they are counter-cultural.

Christianity is the real counter-culture.

- *If we avoid all conflict, how may we be choosing the wrong master?*
- *Knowing how Jesus promises that we will be hated, how important is it that the church be united in love for **each other**? How is that a witness to Christ?*
- *Jesus was hated and crucified for being about the things of God, but he did so perfectly. In what ways can we trust that God will have grace for us when we do it imperfectly?*
- *Pray for wisdom about how to best bear witness to Christ.*