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# John Chapter 15 – Part 2

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## John 15:12-17

# The Greatest Love of All

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- **John 12** This is My commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you**. **13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you**. **15** No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. **16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you** and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you**. **17** These things I command you, that you love one another.
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- “Servant” means Slave. Slavery is it not condemned in the Bible, but it is elevated as a spiritual structure to understand our relationship to the Lord.
  - Kings always had slaves, and this is not always a bad thing, but often was preferred by people since they were cared for. Slaves cared for the needs of the king and this was a common social structure in ancient times.
  - “friend” in the Greek is *philos* which means “to love, to have affection for.” Jesus says, “You are My friends – slaves who are loved and who know Me most intimately.”
  - 2 main points: 1) **Jesus is Lord** and 2) **Christians are His Slaves or Servants**

## John 15:12-17

# Slaves who are Friends

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- V14 – “**You are My friends, if you do what I command you.**”
- In one sense Jesus gave His life for the world (John 3:16), yet in another He dies for His friends (John 10:15 - sheep)
- Obedience is not what makes you a friend of Jesus, but what characterizes a friend of Jesus.
- While we must obey Jesus to be His friend, He does not obey us to be our friend – **be careful not to take this “friendship” concept too lightly.** Jesus is also Lord – You are not.
- **Difference Between Friend & Servant:**
  - Servants/Slaves – are just told what to do
  - Friends – are told what to do but informed of the Master’s thinking, motives, plans and purposes and they obey out of confidence and privilege, but Jesus’ absolute right to command is not diminished.
- **Proverbs 18:24** - A man *who has* friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend *who* sticks closer than a brother.

## John 15:12-17

# Slaves who are Friends

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## 1. Christians are His Slaves or Servants

- Most translations say “servant” but the Greek word is “*doulos*” or Slave used 130 times in the NT. **As a slave of Christ, you are now a “friend” of the King!**
- A Slave is someone who was bought and owned and serves their Master because they are dependant on and obligated to them. You were bought off the slave market of sin with the price of His precious blood.
- **Bondservant** – Slave of Lord Jesus, who was purchased by blood of Christ - Redemption- 3:24; 6:16-2
- **Ransom**: Referred to the price of a slave in Jesus’ time
- Christ became a slave to the Father, and we must become a slave to Christ – John 15:10; Phil 2:7; “not my will but Yours be done”

## John 15:12-17

# You are a Slave To Satan or Christ?

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### Romans 6:16

<sup>16</sup> **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey**, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, **or of obedience leading to righteousness?**

<sup>22</sup> But now having been set free from sin, **and having become slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

### 1 Corinthians 7:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Were you called *while* a slave? Do not be concerned about it; but if you can be made free, rather use *it*. <sup>22</sup> For he who is called in the Lord *while* a slave is the Lord's freedman. **Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave.**

### Matthew 6:24

<sup>24</sup> **"No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

### Matt 25:21

**"Well done, good and faithful servant (slave)"**

## John 15:12-17

# Slaves who are Friends

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## 2. Jesus is Lord

**Romans 10:9** - <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

- “Lord” (*kurios*) means “one who has power, ownership, and absolute authority; sovereign ruler; used 750 times in the New Testament
- This is not about us and our needs and requests, but a slave is only interested in serving and obeying his master.
- Luke 6:46; Mark 8:34; John 12:25-25 –...count the cost...following Jesus means you are not in charge anymore. You are a slave to a new Master. **Matt. 10:37 (Lordship)**

### **Matthew 10:24**

- <sup>24</sup> “A disciple is not above *his* teacher, nor a servant above his master.

# He Chose You to Bear Fruit (Converts)

- V.16 – “<sup>16</sup> **You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that your fruit should remain*...” – ALSO SEE 15:26-27**
- Doctrine of Predestination – Sovereignty of God
- No one deserves to be saved. Being gracious to some does not mean being ungracious to others. We still have free will to reject Him though. **Rom. 8:29-30**
- We are privy to these revelations of God, not because we are better or wiser than others, but because Christ chose us.
- **Your choice of Christ was very different than his choice of you. **Matt. 16:17****
- **“appointed” = Set Apart to bear fruit that remains, or lay-place set aside (also in v.13)**
- The Greek word used for “appointed” (etheka) is commonly used in contexts where people are being **set apart** for ministry (Acts 13:47; 1 Tim 1:12)
- Most respected commentators believe the “fruit that remains” is primarily referring to **NEW CONVERTS**, the fruit of **MISSIONS & Evangelism ministries**.
- All other “fruits” should lead you to sharing the Gospel and your testimony. Evangelize or you may grow cold and lose your rewards in heaven. **Matthew 16:16; Ezek. 3:18**

## John 15:18-16:4

# The Hatred of the World

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- 18 **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated you.* 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant 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.**
- 21 But all these things **they will do to you for My name’s sake,** because they do not know Him who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. 25 But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, **‘They hated Me without a cause.’**



## John 15:18-16:4

# The Hatred of the World

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<sup>26</sup> “But **when the Helper comes**, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.** <sup>27</sup> **And you also will bear witness**, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

**1** “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. **2** They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. **3** And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. **4** **But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.**

“And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.

## John 15:18-16:4

# The Hatred of the World

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- V.18 - The world (kosmos) hates Christians and this hatred is explained not in sociological terms, but **ideological**. **World is under control of Satan!!**
- Two Kingdoms - Christians do not belong to the world kingdom (v.19)
- The ultimate reason the world hates Jesus is that He testifies that its deeds are evil – Darkness (sin) hates light
- **John 3:19 - "And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**
- **John 7:7 - The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.**

## John 15:18-16:4

# The Hatred of the World

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- Jesus is warning us so we won't be surprised when we face persecution and opposition from the “world” (**1 John 3:13**)
- In the context of bearing “FRUIT” that remains (converts), these verses demand decision and become of ultimate importance, since following Jesus will **COST SOMETHING, and it may cost you your life.**
- V.20 – “The servant is not greater than his master” is a direct quote from **John 13:16** – the foot-washing scene.
  - In Chapter 13 this principle was applied to **HUMILITY & SERVICE**
  - Here the same principle is applied to **PERSECUTION**

## John 15:18-16:4

# The Hatred of the World

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- V.21 – 24 – Rejecting Jesus after receiving the Truth of the Gospel is to reject God, in a decisive preference for darkness rather than light.
- Parallels the Synoptics where Jesus tells the ones He performed miracles to and who rejected Him, that because of their lack of repentance, they will face more severe judgement than pagan cities like Tyre and Sidon, and even Sodom (Matt. 11:20-24)
- Therefore, the world, under Satan’s control and which is perishing, hates Jesus Christ because it’s deeds are evil, and it will oppose and persecute Christians, but we are called to be witnesses to the world (v.27) with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **“You are not of this world”** – v.19 – you are a pilgrim, passing through. You are citizen of heaven!! Once you understand this, everything makes more sense - the insanity of the world

## John 15:20

# Why Does the World Hate Christians?

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- We are not part of the World (John 15:19; 1 Peter 2:9; James 4:4)
- Darkness hates Light (John 3:19-21; John 7:7)
- People Hate Truth – it convicts them of sin (Rom. 1:18; Gal 4:16)
- People love their Self-Righteousness (Rom 10:3)
- People believe Lies & False Teachers (2 Thes. 2:11-12)
- People mistake love for hate (Prov. 12:1)
- People want the World to love them (James 4:4)
- Satan has blinded the worlds (2 Cor 4:4)
- They are of their father the Devil (John 8:44)

# Worldly Christians

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- Can you see now how terrible it is when the church or Christians mingle with the world or try to please it?
- Churches that play rock/pop style music to appeal to young people
- Churches that quote worldly philosophers and use movie clips, but avoid preaching on the hard truths of the Bible such as sin and righteousness.

## James 4:4

- Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? **whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

# Rejecting Jesus

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- If Jesus hadn't come and spoke to them, they would have no sin
- Until He came, all they had were their own little sins, but compared to rejecting the Savior of the World, their sins were nothing
- If you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ and reject it, this will be judged more harshly than if you never heard it. Degrees of punishment in hell.
- **The greatest sin of all is rejecting Jesus Christ**

## John 15:20

# Current Events – Prophecy

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- Culture wars not only elevated Satanism and atheism in society, but have promoted mocking and hatred towards the Almighty God of the Bible.
- The world, run by Satan, hates Christians to the extent that we stand for:
  - Biblical morality, especially concerning sexuality, gender and marriage,
  - Jesus as the only true way to God
  - That Truth is Absolute and found in Jesus Christ and the Bible
  - That everyone is a sinner in need of forgiveness
  - That God's judgment and Hell is real



# John 15:20 Current Events – Prophecy

## **EQUALITY ACT** – Being Passed by Biden Right Now

Major sections of the Bible would immediately be labeled as “hate speech” if they offend or discriminate against LGBTQ staff members or parishioners.

## **JEWS ARE ALSO AT RISK OF LOSING 1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT RIGHTS**

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/297447>



## LGBTQ and HIV Activists Protest Anti-Gay Evangelical Group Running a Pop-Up COVID-19 Hospital in New York City



Tim Murphy  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR  
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# The Comforter - Witnessing

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- “**Witness**” is a legal term.
- The Greek word for witness is “martus”, which came to mean **MARTYR**, because so many times, when people were standing up for a witness for Christ, it cost them their life.
- The word “Comforter” is *Paraklētos*. It came to mean the Counsel for the defense.
- He is defending Christ and calling you and I, as individual members of the body, to witness and confirm the testimony of Christ.
- You are a witness whether you know it or not, the only question is whether you’re a good one or a bad one (your lifestyle & testimony)

# Witnessing – Why Don't We do it?

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- Jesus told the Apostles (and us) before and after His death and resurrection that they were to testify of Him. In [Acts 1:8](#) He says, “You shall be My witnesses.” Witnesses of Me. And they obeyed. And their sermons in the early Church were always about Jesus Christ.
- Why aren't churches today teaching and providing tools to help Christians evangelize and share the Gospel?
- It's amazing how much so-called witnessing has nothing to do with Jesus Christ.
  - Even in most modern missionary work, it's mainly about social work.
  - Sharing your testimony and avoiding telling people about Jesus Christ (who He is, what He did on the Cross and how it saved you) is not witnessing.
- V. 26 – Holy Spirit is sent from the Father – The Father bore witness in 3 ways and it's the Father's witness that comes through the Spirit
  - Through the OT scriptures - [John 5:31-32; 39](#)
  - Through the “works” Jesus has performed – [John 10:25](#)
  - Through an audible voice at the baptism, transfiguration and [John 12:28](#)

# Witnessing – Why Don't We do it?

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- A witness is somebody who experienced something first hand and is testifying to it.
- [1 John 1:1](#) - “That which we have **seen** with our eyes, **heard** with our ears, and our **hands have handled, concerning the Word of life, that we declare unto you.**” That’s what a witness is.
- Don’t think you can’t be a witness because you cannot preach or explain all the doctrines of the Bible.
- All you need to do is say, “I have met Jesus Christ,” and you’re a witness; you have the qualifications.
- If you were charged in court for being a Christian, what evidence would they have against you? If the evidence isn’t that you were proclaiming to others that you believed Jesus Christ was God, then you are not a witness.

# The Court Scene - Witnessing

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**“Witness”** is a legal term. It takes us into a law court.

- Individual members of the body are individual witnesses in a trial
- “Who’s on trial?” Jesus Christ is on trial. (liar, a good man; teacher, prophet). The world is judging Jesus Christ on the basis of the effect of the witnesses.
- “Who’s the judge?” The world is the judge.
- “Who’s the defense attorney?” The Holy Spirit.
- “Who’s the prosecution?” Satan with his lies and accusations.

# 3 Ways to Witness

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## 1. Christian Unity

- no division, strife & confusion on doctrine

**John 17: 20** “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> **that all of them may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

The world sees Christianity all fractioned and fragmented. One group hates Catholics, another hates Charismatics, etc....

## 2. Loving one another

- 13:34-35 – Jesus gives the world the right to judge us by our love for one another.

## 3. Sharing Your Testimony of Jesus Christ

- about what Jesus did for you (who He is, what He did on the Cross and how it saved you)