

Poynton Parish Church March 2015

Home Group Notes 9

How the world hates John 15:18-25

Introduction

There seems to be an increasing intolerance in many parts of the world today. And hatred is more obvious too. This is an issue which Jesus addressed in his last long conversation with his closest followers.

1. Do you use the word 'hate'? When and where?
2. How might our society be in danger of defining hate unhelpfully by its increasing focus on certain 'hate speech' and 'hate crimes'?
3. **Read John 15:18-20** Here a strong Greek word for 'hate' is used: meaning 'to abhor, detest, persecute in hatred'.
What reasons does Jesus give for the world hating his disciples?
What are the underlying motives?
4. Will these reasons help the disciples? Do they help you?
5. Where in John's gospel has there already been this type of hatred?
6. What form of persecution or hatred might you face?
7. **Read John 15:21-25** Do you understand what Jesus says here?
Is Jesus saying 'People hate me because they hate my Father who is God and who establishes what is right and wrong and who sent me to do the things of God and to say the truths of sin and salvation but they don't want to know, so they hate me and anyone who is with me, and this hate is for no good reason as the Bible said it would be'? Do you accept what he says?

8. Are you aware of hatred in your own heart towards others?
How might you become aware of it?
9. What do you do to be rid of it? What might you do with it?
10. **Read Luke 6:22-23,27-36** What do you think of this teaching? Have you got a better way of combatting hatred?

11. **Read 16:1-4.** Jesus tells the disciples why he is teaching this. What is his reason? And how will it help?
12. Will you resolve to understand hate as the Bible explains it?
13. How is hate destructive of the giver and receiver and others?
14. Will you resolve to turn from hating like that?
15. What would you pray for someone who hates you?

Prayer Points

*Thank Jesus for his willingness to address hate by receiving it from his enemies
Pray that we will call what God calls a sin a sin, and avoid sinful actions
Thank God for our increased understanding of how God relates to us and this world*

*Pray for the gospel to transform people and society
Pray for all of the people in our world who are truly the receivers of hatred for no good reason, and particularly our brothers and sisters in so many Asian and African countries.*