**John 15:17-19**

**5/29/19**

**Intro – Tonight, Our Lesson Requires That We Do Something A Bit Different.**

**Tonight, Rather Than *Beginning At The Beginning* – We Will *Begin* *At The End.***

**We Have Walked Through Christ’ Great Discourse In Chapter 14, And The First Several Verses Of Chapter 15.**

**Jesus’ Words Of Comfort And Instruction To The Disciples Have Provided Us With Many Great, Heavenly, Truths.**

**(Slide 2)**

Christ’ Sacrificial Death; And His Going To Prepare A Place For Them

His Return To Receive Them To Himself

The Inseparable Relationship Of Christ And His Followers, As Portrayed By The Branches Abiding In Him

Christ’ Declaring Them To Be His Friends

Christ Having Chosen And Ordained Them

**The Ultimate Climax Of All These Things – The Conclusion Of What Ought To Be Our Response To All These Things Is This:**

**(Slide 3)**

“That We Keep His Commandments!”

**1. V. 17 – What Is The Greatest Expression Of Obedience To His Commandments, As It Pertains To Our Earthly Relationships? (*That We Love One Another*)**

**2. Commentator Alexander Mclauren Says That This Is The “Golden Circle” That Encloses The Context Of Everything Jesus Has Said. *(Romans 13:8-10)***

**3. Now, We Will See A Distinct And Abrupt Transition In The Focus Of Jesus’ Instructions To His Disciples.**

**Like The Shadow Of A Dark Cloud, Christ’ Focus Shifts From The *Love* The Disciples Should Have For One Another, To The *Hatred* The World Will Have For Them.**

**(Slide 4)**

“Love Is The Distinguishing Mark Of Christ’ Kingdom. Hate Is The Distinguishing Mark Of Satan’s Kingdom.”

***Jesus Is Going To Continue Along This Line Of Instruction Now Through The Middle Of Chapter 16.***

**4. V. 18 – What Is The Great, Profound, Truth Jesus Presents In Verse 18?**

**(Slide 5)**

“When You Experience Hatred And Persecution From The World, Remember That That Hatred Emanates From Their Hatred Of Me.”

**5. Why Do You Think Jesus Felt It Important To Tell His Disciples This?  *(So That They Would Not Be Surprised When It Happens; And That They Will Find Comfort In Being Identified With Christ)***

**6. Amazingly, We Are Still Surprised When We Experience Hostility From The World, Because We Are Christians!**

**The Reason For Our Shock When We Have Such Experiences Is That Christianity Has Historically Been Held In High Regard In The U.S.**

**However, The American Experience *Has Not* Been The Typical Experience Of Christians Throughout The World.**

***Our Christian Utopia, However, Is Quickly Disappearing…***

**(Slide 6 – Video)**

**7. V. 19a – Jesus Goes On To Expound On His Statement In Verse 18. What Is His Opening Statement In Verse 19?**

**8. There Is A Great Deal Of Truth In This Simple Saying That We Should Note:**

**(Slide 7)**

1. We Are Not Of The World (Our Principles, Philosophies Of Life, Goals And Objectives, Are Contrary To Those, Who Do Not Know Christ).
2. If We Were Of The World, The World Would Embrace Us, For The World Embraces Its Own.

**(Slide 8 - Photos)**

**9. V. 19b – Jesus Also Says Something That Ought To Be Of Incredible Encouragement To The Disciples, And To Us. *“I Have Chosen You Out Of The World.”***

**10. When You Hear This Statement, What Things Come To Your Mind? (*Discuss Fact That We Once Were A Part Of World’s System – But God Selected Us, And Delivered Us From The World*)**

**11. V. 19c – Jesus Concludes Verse 19 By Declaring That This Is The Reason The World Hates Christians!**

**12. I Used To Think The World Hates Christians Just Because Christian Has A System Of Moral Demands, To Which The World Does Not Want To Adhere. However, Our Cultures Embrace Of Islam Has Changed My Thesis.**

**Consider, However, Islam’s Stance Against Homosexuality, Their Treatment Of Women, And The Penalties Is Some Islamic Countries For Crimes Such As Theft.**

***It Is, In Fact, Christ That The World Hates!***