

# RESPONDING TO REJECTION

John 15:18-16:4

John 15 gives us three specific commands for three specific relationships

## COMMAND RELATIONSHIP

Abide In Jesus  
Love One Another  
Tell The World

What is "the world?"

The term is used in three ways in the Bible:

The created world,  
All of the people in the world,  
The world system without God.

Romans 12:2, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

1 John 2:15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

1 John 2:18-19, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

HATRED RESULTS IN:

FEELING	PASSIVE ACTION	AGGRESSIVE ACTION
Irritation, Agitation...	Inattention, Rejection...	Discrimination, Persecution

What do I do when I face rejection for my faith?

### 1. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY

Focus on YOURSELF and you'll build bitterness, fear, anger, depression or pride.

Focus on JESUS and you'll build faith

### 2. DON'T TRY TO FIT IN

Believer's CANT "fit in"

We are HOLY

We are LIGHT

We are being TRANSFORMED

John 15:20, "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."

### 3. DON'T TRY TO AVOID REJECTION

### 4. REMEMBER THAT REJECTION IS NOT UNIVERSAL

What can we do for believers around the world who are facing persecution?

1. PRAY for them
2. LEARN from them
3. GIVE to them

#### 4. SPEAK OUT for them

John 15:21-24, "But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."

#### 5. RESPOND WITH COMPASSION

They don't KNOW the Father

They have NO EXCUSE for their sin

Persecution is someone shouting ... I DON'T KNOW JESUS!

John 15:25, "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause."

#### 6. DON'T LOOK FOR THE REASON

Here's what people believed about believers when John was written:

They want to overthrow the government

They are cannibals

They're immoral

They are arsonists

Their faith ruins families

Why won't "reason" work?

It's not a difference of OPINION

It's a difference in our NATURES

John 15:26-27, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning."

#### 7. TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### 8. TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

Testify is an imperative... a COMMAND.

Times of persecution are also times of PROCLAMATION.

A persecution without a clear witness given is a WASTED persecution.

John 16:1-4, "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you."

#### 9. DON'T GO ASTRAY.

We can respond to the world's hatred by...

Blending in

Fighting back

Telling the truth