

## Why be Surprised When the World Acts Like the World?

John 15:18-16:4

John 15 is all about relationships. Verses 1-11 describe the relationship of the vine and the branches, of Christ and believers. If we want to live fruitful lives, we must have a vital connection to Jesus. Verses 12-17 describe the relationship of the branches to the branches, of Christ followers to one another. We are called to love one another and obey Christ's commands. 15:18-16:4 describe the relationship of the vine and the branches to the world, of Christ and his followers to non-believers. It points out the fact that *friendship with God results in enduring the world's hatred.*

### **Don't be surprised by opposition (15:18; 16:1, 4)**

Jesus wanted to prepare his followers for the opposition they would face after his departure.

### **The world hates Christ followers (15:18, 20; 16:2)**

Hatred

Persecution

Excommunication

### **The world hates Christ followers because ...**

It hated Jesus (15:18)

We are identified with Jesus (15:18)

We have a different nature and value system than the world (15:19)

They are ignorant of the truth (15:20-21; 16:3)

They are convicted by the truth (15:22-25)

## **Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit**

He comes from the Father (15:26)

He will teach us about Jesus (15:26)

He will help us proclaim the truth (15:27)

He will help us stand firm when opposition comes (16:1-2)

He will remind us that God is still in control (16:4)

## **Principles to practice**

Rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom, abilities, and courage.

Faithfully stand firm and proclaim divine truth.

Avoid temptation and keep from being ensnared by evil.

Don't be surprised by persecution and the rise of evil.

Don't be surprised when the world acts like the world.