



John: The Great "I AM" Gospel
John 15:18-25—Part 1
From Sermon 1.19.25

Read *John 15:18-25*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Generally, we would prefer people like us. Because we serve a loving, gracious, and forgiving God, we would also hope people would like God and be open to the Gospel. Unfortunately, that is not the case. It never has been. Total depravity (slavery to sin) makes all of mankind hostile to the Gospel and at enmity with God. Jesus is preparing the Apostles for the reality of persecution in His Name. We can expect nothing less—especially as we grow in Christ.

1. Discuss and reconcile this fact: most of the world (historically and contemporarily) is "religious". Why then does Jesus say they hate God? Because the God the Bible is vastly different than the gods of the world. They are all based on works. They are all doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Today's culture wants to tout their "spirituality", but they are opposed to the Truth and Jesus' definition of sin and judgment.

2. If you asked do you think most people they'd say they hate Jesus? Why? The vast majority would likely state that they do not hate Jesus. But they have a false understanding and knowledge of the real Jesus. They love a Jesus is who social justice, peace, unconditional love, & a moral teacher with expectations on them.

2a. Why would Jesus conclude that the world hates Him? Who's wrong here? Jesus knows the truth and the reality of man's heart. Today's culture would crucify Him just as His own earthly ministry culture did. The world loves sin and hates the Light. Obviously, the party in error is the world.

3. What are some factors regarding the Law of God that man hates?

- Psalm 119:89 & Isaiah 40:8—It is immutable/unchanging. They want relativism.
- Psalm 2:1-3—It sets divine boundaries and limits = judging man's sin
- Leviticus 11:45 & 1 Peter 1:16—It's so lofty, it's unattainable by works & moral reform.
- Romans 6:23—It's stated eternal price for violation.

4. If the world hates the true God of the Bible and hates His immutable Law and standards, how then will they react to those appointed by God to bring His Word? They will hate them also. God's prophets and apostles have always been persecuted. It's true today. It will ramp up in Tribulation.

See also *Hebrews 11:32-38, Matthew 23:34 & Mark 13:13*

5. If the world so clearly hates the real Jesus and genuine Christians, what should be our attitude and reaction? Should we hate them back? Should we form a holy huddle, and they can just face the consequences of their hostility? No. Not at all. We are to continue to show them love and compassion and speak the truth. They are the mission field. We were all once enemies of God.

5a. What are some sad examples of Christians and Church responding sinfully to the sin of the world? Various Answers.