

### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Colossians 3:1-4 | Ephesians 6:12 | Romans 8:37-39

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.18.24

### SUMMARY

Jesus affirms his love for the disciples in an extraordinary manner when he says, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you” (v. 9). This manner of love assures the disciples that his love is eternal, fixed, unwavering, and holy. Moreover, he begins to reveal what the disciples certainly don’t comprehend yet, that Jesus will “lay down his life for his friends” (v. 13). Jesus continues by reminding them that their security with God the Father ultimately rests *not* upon their ability to choose him, rather his sovereign choosing of them (v. 16). This is important reassurance—one they’ll need to be mindful of in the days ahead as Jesus continues to prepare them for what they’re about to face. The disciples’ unbreakable union with Christ affords them peace and joy, but along with it, the enmity of the world. Jesus explains to his disciples that the world will “hate” them. While *hate* might sound like an extreme description of the world’s disposition towards the Christian, Jesus reveals the depth of man’s problem with sin when he uses this word. Sin is devastating; it not only separates us from a God who is holy but creates animosity toward him. Jesus tells his disciples that this hatred will now extend to them by nature of their union with him. This hatred, in the days ahead, will manifest itself to them in the form of persecution unto death for nearly all of them. However, Jesus reminds them that their union with him also provides the comfort and strength of the Holy Spirit (the Helper). The assurance Jesus provides his disciples carries forth to his disciples of all ages. Though the world will reject and hate us, our union with Christ through the Holy Spirit guarantees our acceptance by the Father.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 15:9-27.

What do you understand it to mean when Jesus tells his disciples, “You are my friends”? Do you think of Jesus as a friend? How does it work that Jesus is both Lord and friend?

Do you get a sense that the world hates you because of your union with Christ? In what ways do you see this “hatred” manifest itself?

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.