

.

**THE CHRISTIAN THREEFOLD RELATIONSHIP
JOHN 15:18-27 OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD**

This concludes the three sermons on John 15. They were our relationship to Christ, our relationship to one another, and today, our relationship to the world.

Our relationship to the world may be stated under three words: Separation, Opposition, and Witnessing.

1. **SEPERATION:** Verse 19: **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.** Chosen to be a special person unto Himself, not because ye were better or mightier than others, but because the Lord loved you (Deuteronomy 7:6-8) Called by His grace, cleansed by His Blood, and made meet for His fellowship by the indwelling of His Spirit.
2. **OPPOSITION:** Verse 19 again: **If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.**

As soon as we became sons of God the world "Knew us not and despised us as strangers and foreigners" (I John 3:1) **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.**

Matthew 10:22 says: And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

If they hated Jesus, then we must expect them to hate us also, for we are no better than our Master.

Our reward is found in Matthew 5:11: **Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**

Happy are you when Men:

- 1. Shall insult you.**
- 2. Shall persecute you,**
- 3. Shall say evil against you falsely.**

3. WITNESSING:

1. Verse 27: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. We have been separated by Him, to be witnesses for Him, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

2. In any ordinary court the witnesses are separate persons; they are there not to see and be seen, but to give their evidence.

3. Our business in the open court of this world, where Christ is still being judged and condemned, is as a witness for Him.

4. The more intimately we know Him – His Word, His work, and His will – the more powerful and convincing our evidence will be. (Luke 24:4-9) ⁴And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: ⁵And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, ⁷Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ⁸And they remembered his words, ⁹And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

5. We are all witnesses of these things. What things?

We are witnesses to His death because we have been crucified with Him;

To His resurrection, because we have been raised from the dead; to His ascension,

Here in the world, as I said last Sunday. **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Matthew 5:16**

As we think about what is going on today in the world, it is necessary that we cleave

unto the Lord in all situations. As Christians, we need to have a strong witness to the people that we encounter.

**Pastor Larry Vickery
PO Box 133
South Heart, ND 58655
Cell: 701 260 5940
Email: ldvickery@gmail.com**