

**Sovereign Grace Church**  
**“The Fellowship of the Hated” outline**  
September 3, 2017

**John 15: 18-25**

*It is usually good to be loved....and, in this fallen world, it can be good to be hated! Hate and love are strong terms and are used to convey the extremes of our emotional lives. Of course, this is not all they are used for, but this is what we normally think about. If we are loved by bad people, it is not necessarily a good thing! But if we are hated by bad people...it may be because there is something good in us which provokes their hatred. Such is the case with those who choose to follow Jesus and to be identified with Him.*

*Jesus warned His disciples that because the world hated Him, it would hate His followers as well. Of course, there may be other reasons the world hates the followers of Jesus....reasons that are not good...and we shouldn't assume that because we are hated by the world we are necessarily serving Christ! But serving Christ amidst those who despise Him will not generate positive feelings. And we must be prepared for that.*

*We must also have firmly in mind how we are to respond to these hostile and unpleasant attitudes and acts. To that end we will look at Jesus' warning to His disciples which was conveyed in the upper room just before His crucifixion. We will see that loving the world is risky business....it is clearly not for the weak or timid!*

**1. The Christian's Call brings the World's Reaction vv. 18-20**  
**Matt 10: 25; Gen. 3: 4-5, 15; Rom. 12: 18**

**2. Why does the World Hate Jesus and His Followers vv. 21-25**  
**John 1: 9-11**

- because the world does not know Who sent Him v. 22

- because the world hates the One who did v. 23

- because Jesus' works testified against the World v. 24  
John 12: 10-11
- because their own law testified against them v. 25  
Cf., Psm 69:4

Isa. 5: 20-21

3. What should be the Christian's Response?  
Jn 17: 18, 15; II Cor. 10: 3; Rom 12: 14, 17-18
4. Applications Isa 2: 2-4

### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

1. Have you ever been on the receiving end of someones hatred? Have you ever received "hate-mail" in any form? What was your immediate response? What was your final response? What sort of thinking did you go through to arrive at your final response? Why is Face book/Twitter such a faulty means of communicating emotional issues? Can it be redeemed? How?
2. What are some things that God hates? (see Proverbs 6: 16-19). Should we hate these as well? Is it possible to hate something that we love? (see Romans 7) Does God hate those He doesn't redeem? Why might you think that He does? Why might you think that He does not? Can God's love be reconciled with His leaving some people in their sins? How?
3. What is the difference between God being identified with love as opposed to being identified with hate? Why do some unbelievers perceive God as a God of hate instead of love? Is it possible for Christians to encourage this kind of thinking? How? How can it be guarded against?
4. Is it possible to interpret hate in the Bible as "loving less?" see Luke 14: 26 and Genesis 29: 30-32 (note: the word "unloved" in v. 31 is "hated.")