



Sermon Questions for October 12, 2025 / Rev. Hugh Barlett

John 15:18–27 18 “If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: ‘They hated me without a cause.’ 26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

*** Rodney King: “Why can’t we just get along”

Hostility in human hearts Bearing witness in a hostile world Embodying, expressing enduring

+++ “I can’t believe that people can be so hateful” we can be and should be sorrowful, but we cannot be surprised ...*** when you parent you can expect to hear “I hate you”

What does this hostility look like?

- Hated philosophically: “too rigid in absolute truth”
- Hated culturally: “too old fashioned in our values”
- Hated religiously: “too Intolerant”

Why are going to feel this hostility?

- We are not of this world
- We represent Christ
- Christ convicts people of sin How do we live in the face of hostility?
- By the help of the spirit
- By the truth of the Spirit
- By focus on Christ

Titus 3:3–6: 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,



2 Timothy 2:24–26: 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Where do we experience hostility from others? Jesus is not talking about people being irritated with us because we are difficult, selfish or proud. He is saying when we live out our Christian life, people will dislike us or oppose us. Condescending? Dismissive? Angry? Critical? Marginalizing?

- How does it help us to know people won't always like us?
- How do we prepare for that?
- How do we respond to others when they hate us? Do you fight back? Do you wilt? Do you get discouraged?
- How does it help us to know that we share experience with Christ? How does the Holy Spirit help us?