

October 17, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
John 15:18 - 16:4

“Witness to the World – Part 2”

- I. Believer’s Relationship to Jesus (Abide) – 15:1-11
- II. Believer’s Relationship to Believers (Loving Friendship) – 15:12-17
- III. Believer’s Relationship to the World (Witness) – 15:18 – 16:4
 - A. The Picture (Jesus’ relationship to the world)
 1. What
 - a. Hatred (15:18-19)
 - b. Persecution (15:20)
 - c. Obedience / Disobedience (15:20)
 2. Why
 - a. Godlessness (15:21, 23, 24; 16:3; cf. Mt. 15:8-9)
 - b. Sin / Guilt (15:22, 24)
 - 1) His Words (15:22; cf. 4:25-26, 39-42)
 - 2) His Works (15:24; cf. 5:20; 6:28-29; 7:3; 9:3-4; 14:10-12; 17:4)
 - Words & Works (1:47ff; 2:11, 19-22; 3:14-15; 10:25-38)
 - B. The Promises
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - C. The Priority: Witnessing

“Successful witnessing = taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” (Bill Bright)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Why do we fear man (Prov. 29:25)? Why are we so concerned with what others think about us? How does this negatively impact our ability to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to fear God? How does the fear of God enable us to overcome our fear of man?
2. In John 15, Jesus spoke of three critical relationships that His followers needed to prioritize (with Jesus; with other believers; with the lost world). Why did He start with their relationship with Him (abiding)? Why does / should this relationship come first? If we are not truly abiding in Jesus (and Jesus, His Word, and His joy abiding in us), how does that impact our ability to love other believers and witness to the world? What are you doing daily to make sure your relationship with Jesus is truly and obviously the priority relationship in your life?
3. Our witness to the world is both individual (you) and corporate (church family). What are some ways we can develop deeper relationships with one another at church? With whom or with which specific group at church could you do that this week / month? How do intimate, loving friendships in the church family impact our ability to witness to unsaved people? (See Jn. 13:34-35; Jn. 17:20-21 to get started)
4. Jesus speaks frequently of the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of true disciples (see John 7:39; 14:16, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15). What ministry would the Holy Spirit have in the lives of believers after Jesus ascended to heaven? What ministry does He have in the world? How does He help us in our witness to the lost?
5. In John 16:1, what kind of “stumbling” is Jesus talking about? Why does Jesus tell them that they are going to be hated, persecuted, and possibly killed for being His witnesses? How did this help them when it happened?
6. Read Acts 9:1-19. What similarities do you see in the story of Saul/Paul and what Jesus said to the disciples in John 15? How does knowing we are going to be hated and persecuted, and possibly suffer and be killed help us persevere in witnessing to the world? What convictions do we need to have (and strengthen) to keep going when we face opposition and/or apparent lack of fruit? See Acts 20:24; Rom. 1:14-17; Phil. 1:12-30; 2 Tim. 1:6-12; 4:16-18.
7. How did Jesus witness to the world? What are some specific (practical) ways we can witness to the world? Share with others in your group how you use your personal testimony, gospel tracts, books / Bibles, DVDs, specific gospel presentations, etc.
8. Pair up in your group and practice taking one another through a gospel tract (i.e., “Life’s Most Important Question” or “Bridge to Life,” etc.). Pray for one another to have opportunities this week to do it with someone who does not know Jesus.
9. Practical suggestions this week: 1) Spend much time abiding in Jesus. Draw upon His grace and strength to develop deeper convictions about your relationship with Him and with others. 2) Give yourself to active fellowship in the church. Participate in a LIFE Group. Develop meaningful relationships where you spur each other on to greater love for Jesus and a more passionate commitment to make disciples. 3) Choose not to live by the fear of man (Prov. 29:25) but to have the boldness of a lion (Prov. 28:1; Acts 1:8; 4:31). 4) Memorize a Gospel presentation. 5) Make a list of 5 to 10 people in your life who do not know Jesus (family, neighbors, co-workers...). Pray for them daily and then take the initiative to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them. Tell them how Jesus has changed your life and how they too can experience His saving grace.