

Life Group Questions

(John 15:18-25)

1. In John 15:18, Jesus says, "*If the world hates you, understand that it hated me first.*" Why does Jesus make it a point to establish that his disciples would not experience anything that he himself had not already endured? How can this foundational truth help us cope with opposition and persecution?
2. John 15:18-19 states believers are hated because they were chosen "*out of the world.*" What does it mean to be "*chosen out of the world,*" and why does this separation lead to hatred?
3. According to verses 21 and 24, what is the ultimate reason for the world's hostility toward both Jesus and his followers?
4. How can Jesus' words help us to recognize the difference between persecution for our faith and suffering the natural consequences of our own poor decisions or unloving behavior?
5. How should Jesus' teaching shape our expectations for how we will be received by the world? Does it discourage you, or does it change how you approach evangelism?
6. Reflecting on Jesus' example, how should a Christian respond to ridicule, rejection, and animosity? What do we learn from Jesus' own response to those who hated him?

(Galatians 5:16-18)

7. According to verses 16-18, what is the fundamental conflict happening inside every Christian? How is this different from the internal struggles non-believers might face? How does Paul's emphasis on the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit provide motivation for a Christian life?

8. Paul says the flesh and the Spirit are in "*conflict with each other, to keep you from doing what you want to do*" (v. 17, NIV). What "*things*" do you think Paul is referring to here? What is the difference between the desires of the flesh and the desires of the Spirit?
9. What does it mean to "*walk by the Spirit*," and how does this contrast with the world's definition of freedom? According to Galatians 5:16, what is the result of walking by the Spirit? What are some practical ways to walk by the Spirit in daily life?
10. The text describes the internal battle as a constant reality for believers. What does this mean for our expectations of the Christian life? How should it shape our prayers? What does the ongoing battle between the Spirit and the flesh teach us about relying on our own willpower versus depending on God?
11. How is the concept of "*renewing our minds*" (Romans 12:2) connected to walking by the Spirit?
12. How does the Holy Spirit help believers resist the desires of the flesh? What is the Spirit's role in producing the fruit of the Spirit, and what is our part in it?