

May 19, 2019
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
ACCELERATE - Beyond The Starting Blocks Of Faith
Episode 8: 21st Century Discipleship – Living Between Two Worlds
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John 15:18-27

¹⁸“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me (Jesus) first. ¹⁹If you **belonged** to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰Remember what I told you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹They will treat you this way because of my name, **for they do not know the One who sent me.** ²²If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. ²⁵But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: ‘They hated me without reason.’ ²⁶“When the **Advocate comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷**And you also must testify**, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Living in the Word: In this passage, Jesus speaks about the tension of living in the world while not belonging to it.

- Jesus says in **vs. 19** *“I have chosen you out of the world.”*
 - **Polar Opposites:** The world lives according to the flesh, while the children of God live according to the Spirit.
 - **1 John 2:16** *For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world.*
 - **Romans 8:5** *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

A major component of Christ-following is learning to discern what belongs to the Father and what belongs to the world.

- **Living the Spirit led life: Vs. 26-27** When the **Advocate comes**, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father - He will testify about Me. ²⁷**And you also must testify**, for you have been with Me from the beginning.
 - **Practical Translation:** God is your Father and He has sent you His Spirit of truth, who will speak truth to your Spirit so that you might know what is true and what is false.

Taking it home: Use these questions to go deeper in personal reflection, over a pot of tea with a friend or in one of our home fellowship or community groups.

1. How difficult is it to know when you are living according to the world vs. the Spirit?
2. What is the most difficult part of living in the world, but not being of it?
3. What are some of the ways that the Spirit of Truth testifies to you personally?
4. Christ says that we must testify to what we know as true. What does that mean to you?
5. How could you begin infusing more of God's testimony of truth into your conversations and life?