

## Sharing: John 15v18-16v11

In John 13-17, Jesus is teaching disciples to be secure in his love, so that we can live like him. He's preparing disciples in this passage for the hostility and opposition they will face. Jesus' life in the gospels is full of conflict. *How do you react to conflict? What sort of sense of identity do we need in order to cope well with it?*

### 1) We share in Jesus' sufferings (15v18-25)

As the Father sent the Son, so Jesus sends us (John 13v16, 20; John 20v21). You are, quite literally, a 'godsent'! The people around you are desperately in need of true knowledge of God and the deep love of Christ. As we bring God's revelation in Jesus to people and show them the Father, some will hate and persecute us (15v18, 20). But Jesus intends and wants us to speak the word he spoke; and some will keep that word (v20). His word is an awesome revealing of God. To reject Jesus, to reject his word and works, is to reject and hate God himself (v22-24). We should remember that the source of the opposition we will face is spiritual (v25).

Jesus wants us to share in his sufferings so that we can share in his mission to bring true life to people. He loves us to the end, without holding back, and then walks with us as we share that kind of love with other people. His love and our security in the vine free us to be able to suffer to bring life to others.

### 2) We share in the Spirit's witness (15v26-27, 16v7)

This witness and evangelism is something primarily that the Holy Spirit does—we share in His witness by speaking Jesus' word. The dawning of the age of the Spirit (and His widespread and powerful mission) is so special that Jesus said it was good he was going away (16v7). The original disciples couldn't begin to fulfil their mission without the Spirit. Jesus sends us the Spirit of truth from the Father, and the Spirit then testifies about Jesus (15v26). And that testimony happens as we speak Jesus' word and show people the Father's love (15v27, 14v12-14). *Does this give you more confidence to start up conversations and develop spiritual friendships?*

### 3) We share in Jesus' mission (16v8-10)

Jesus has brought us into friendship and partnership with him (15v14-15), and a central part of that is sharing in his mission and asking the Father for this kind of fruit (15v16). Because Jesus has promised this missional fruit, we are expectant that he will do this work through us (14v14). We are expectant because as we speak Jesus' word, show people Jesus' kind of love, and witness about him, we know the Holy Spirit will be at work (16v8). The Spirit of truth will be: convicting people that to reject Jesus is to reject God himself (v9); convicting people that Jesus was righteous and we are not, and that God vindicated Jesus by raising him from the dead (v10); and convicting people that in Jesus' death, it was ultimately Satan and evil that was being judged and defeated (v11).

Let's enter more fully into living like Jesus, laying our lives down so that he can use us to save those around us out of death. As we do this, we share in Jesus' heart of love for the world. Let's depend on the Spirit, praying to the Father and Son, trusting that the Spirit will do just what is promised here: opening people's eyes to their sin and who Jesus is, convincing them of their need to be rescued from evil and delivered from death. *What could we be asking God to give us the strength by his Spirit to overcome, so that we can take Jesus' love more powerfully and effectively to the people around us?*

