

# Loving Amidst Hate

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: John 15:12-16:4.

B. The business of the Christian life is discovering what the statement “You in Me, and I in you” means.

C. Three things that result from this principle.

1. We begin to become more Christ-like.
2. Our relationships with each other change.
3. Our relationships with outsiders are improved.

## II. We are commanded to love one another.

A. Real love is a decision to act for someone else no matter how one feels.

B. A motive is suggested when Jesus asks them to love as He has loved them.

1. The disciples were to draw on Jesus’ love.
2. When we do not feel like loving others, we must begin to review Christ’s love for us. (Romans 8)

C. What real love looks like.

1. Laying one’s life down.

- a. This is a process—there are levels of laying one’s life down.
- b. Basically, it means to give of oneself.

2. Being a friend.

- a. This means to share life with someone.
- b. Love is an open sharing of who you are—taking down the facades.

D. Jesus strategically put us wherever we are at to bear fruit in difficult challenges and pray for one another.

## III. The Lord helps us to understand the world’s hostility.

A. There is nothing personal about it—Jesus experienced this too. (Hebrews 12)

B. Christians are different from the world. (I Peter 4)

C. Persecution cannot be avoided but the Christian will still find success.

1. Men do not respond because of godlessness—people are worshipping the wrong god. The basic problem is ignorance.

2. Yet they also have no excuse because Jesus revealed the Father through His words and works.

D. How to respond to the world's hatred.

1. The Spirit will bear witness in us.

2. We must witness to what we have experienced.

3. We must hold strong despite persecution.

4. We have been forewarned and know that it is going to come.

**Application questions:**

1. Why does the world hate Christians?

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2. How would you respond to someone who tells you that love is just a feeling?

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3. What encouragement can we have in Jesus' words when we are persecuted? How have you been encouraged?

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