

The Essentials: The Gospel of John
Session 8: John 15: 12-27

Opening Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Watch Video

Read: John 15: 12-27 (out loud)

Discussion:

1. How does Jesus define love?
2. Read vv. 15 and 16 closely. Why does Jesus die for us?
3. V. 17 says that Jesus gave these commandments that we would love one another. Why is loving one another imperative in a world that hates you?
4. V. 16 tells us that we don't opt-into bearing fruit, rather we are chosen and appointed to do so. Given this relational quality of Jesus's command what might "bearing fruit" look like?
5. Maybe you have caught yourself saying, "it feels like the world is against me." What consolation can you find in vv. 18 and 19?
6. V. 26 tells us that the Spirit will testify to us on behalf of Jesus. What then does it look like for you to testify on behalf of Jesus given the content of the previous verses?

Check in and Closing Prayer

John 15: 12-27

¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Slaves are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ It was to fulfill the word that is written in their law, ‘They hated me without a cause.’

²⁶ “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.