

“Advice from Jesus”

John 15:18-16:4

Pastor Jeff Burkholder

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As we face opposition and ridicule for our faith, how do we respond?

**1. Recognize we do not belong to this world.
(John 15:18-19)**

“Jesus taught us to expect rejection. Rejection may be difficult to take, but if we never experience it, we may be hiding our Christianity from others. If we profess Christ and are warmly embraced by this world, we should reexamine our commitment and life-style. If we remain silent about our faith in order to gain acceptance by the world, we have made a poor trade. In fact, we are being dishonest in two ways: We deny the faith we claim as central to our lives, and we deceive those whose acceptance we want by not revealing our Christian faith. The Scriptures warn us, ‘Friendship with the world is hatred toward God’ (James 4:4 NIV; see also 2 Timothy 3:10-12; 1 John 2:15-17; 3:1; 4:5-6).”

Life Application Bible Commentary: John,
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 1993, p. 317.

**2. Anticipate it, but don’t take it personally.
(John 15:20-25; 2 Timothy 3:12)**

“As Christians, we are tempted to make unnecessary concessions to those outside the Faith. We give in too much. Now, I don’t mean that we should run the risk of making a nuisance of ourselves by witnessing at improper times, but there comes a time when we must show that we disagree. We must show our Christian colours, if we are to be true to Jesus Christ. We cannot remain silent or concede everything away.” *C.S. Lewis*

Life Application Bible Commentary: John,
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 1993, p. 319.

3. Partner with the Holy Spirit in testifying and pointing others to Christ. (John 15:26-27)

“The Holy Spirit’s primary ministry to the lost world is to **testify about** Jesus. Likewise, the message of the church is not political activism, social reform, or psychological self-fulfillment but Jesus Christ.”

John McArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 12-21*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2008, p. 182.

“Believers are the final link in the chain of witness. Thus Jesus, after describing the Holy Spirit’s witness, told the disciples **you will testify also**. The two are inseparably linked, since it is the Spirit who enables believers to effectively testify to the world about Jesus Christ. So vital is the Spirit’s empowering of Christian witness that the Lord instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Luke 24:49). It was ‘in the power of the Spirit’ that Paul ‘fully preached the gospel of Christ’ (Rom. 15:19).”

John McArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 12-21*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2008, p. 185.

4. Don’t go astray when it gets tough. (John 16:1-4)

“Christ does not offer His followers the way of comfort and ease, but a hard and difficult path. Though the gate is small and the road is narrow, it is certainly well worth the strenuous journey, for it alone ‘leads to life’ and to eternal glory (Matt. 7:13-14). Thus Paul could write, in the midst of his multitudinous trials, ‘For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison’ (2 Cor. 4:17).”

John McArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: John 12-21*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, Illinois, 2008, p. 194.

Resources:

The Voice of the Martyrs: www.persecution.com

www.persecutedchurch.org

Safely Home by Randy Alcorn