

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**John 15:12-27**

**Lesson #55**

**Loved by God not the world**

**12/11/2016**

**Millennials (age 20-40) are called  
Generation “Y” or “Me”**

**They are among the “Nones”  
the fastest 1 religious group  
in America.**

**They are spiritually alive but  
leaving the organized church  
because of its leadership.**

1

## **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (The Message)**

“Don’t be naive. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They make a show of religion but behind the scenes they’re animals. **Stay clear of these people.**”

2

**We are called  
to bear witness  
to Christ as  
his Body**

**We are called  
to be IN but not  
OF the world.**

**80% of white  
evangelical  
Christians  
voted for  
Trump.**

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## **Literary Context**

✓ Three important **relationships**:

**Ch 15:1-11**

**attached to  
Christ**

“abide in me”

**Ch 15:12-17**

**attached to  
One another**

“love one  
another”

**Ch 15:18-27**

**detached from  
the World**

“you are not of  
the world”

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## **Cultural Context**

✓ The disciples relationship with the **Religious establishment** is in view (then and now).

**John 15:20**

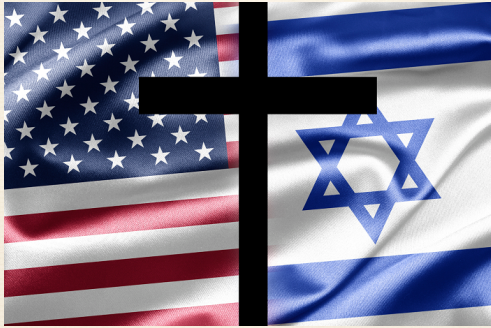
“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”

**John 16**

“<sup>2</sup> They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me.”

5

***“Organized Religion too often  
confuses popular culture  
with Orthodoxy.”***



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## John 15

“<sup>12</sup> This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends <sup>14</sup> You are My friends, if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you. <sup>17</sup> This I command you, that you love one another.”

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***“as I have loved you”***

✓ ***Self sacrifice - service***

“lay down his life for his friends”

✓ ***Shared life - transparency***

“all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you”

✓ ***Voluntary attachment - adoption***

“I chose you”

✓ ***Edification for calling - fruitfulness***

“that you should go and bear fruit”

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***Common mistakes***

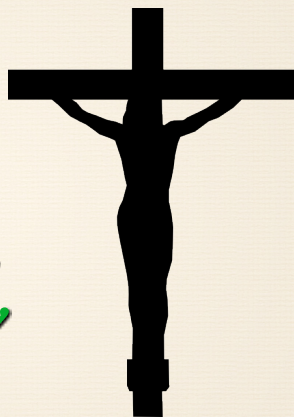
✓ ***“Love of self” too often gets stuck there.***

✓ ***Don’t project your temperament and taste on others.***

✓ ***It is hard to love if you don’t listen well.***

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***“Love is  
defined by  
what it costs  
me and how  
it helps you.”***



10

“<sup>18</sup> If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup> If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. <sup>20</sup> Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. <sup>21</sup> But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me.”

***Detachment from the world  
(values not disengagement)***

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## ***“if the world hates you”***

### **✓ Aliens - Incompatibility**

“you are not of the world”

### **✓ Example - follow the leader**

“If they persecuted Me,  
they will also persecute you”

### **✓ Misunderstanding - blindness**

“they do not know the One who sent Me”

12

## ***Common mistakes***

### **✓ Not *everything* the world does is bad.**



Tony Campolo



Hegel  
Nietzsche  
Kierkegaard  
Freud  
Marx  
Dostoyevsky

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## ***Common mistakes***

### **✓ Not *everything* the world does is bad.**

### **✓ Not everything is *black and white*.**

### **✓ Not everything is a *major* issue.**

### **✓ *Tolerance and forbearance* with some issues are virtues.**

14

***“Dance with  
the world but  
never get too  
close or give  
up the lead.”***



15

“<sup>22</sup> If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but **now they have no excuse for their sin.** <sup>23</sup> He who hates Me hates My Father also. <sup>24</sup> If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. <sup>25</sup> But they have done this in order that the word may be fulfilled that is written in their Law, ‘*They hated Me without a cause.*’ <sup>26</sup> When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **He will bear witness of Me,** <sup>27</sup> and **you will bear witness also,** because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

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## ***“bearing witness”***

### **✓ Jesus - his words and deeds convicted and exposed the heart.**

“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin”

### **✓ Holy Spirit - has the same role**

“He will bear witness of Me”

### **✓ Disciples - have the same role**

“you will bear witness also”

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## Common mistakes

- ✓ **Testifying of a false Christ** - chaplain for the American dream, expression of alter ego, etc.
- ✓ **Confusing our tastes & politics with God's kingdom** - religious culture is too often a mixture of flesh and Spirit.
- ✓ **Failing to keep the main thing the main thing** - majoring on minor issues.
- ✓ **Discrediting our words with our actions** - preaching discipline, love, & grace but not living it.
- ✓ **Being aloof and proud** - failing to respond like a servant when treated like one or claiming to be someone we are not.
- ✓ **Being insensitive** - lacking common sense and respect for others.

18

***"We are not to entice others to view Christ as a means of worldly gain."***

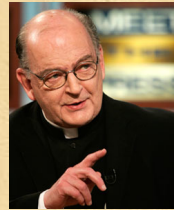


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## Two common misunderstandings concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

- ✓ **The Spirit is a means to gain heaven:** He comes to empower us to obey the LAW so as to be acceptable to God.
- ✓ **The Spirit is the means to gain the world:** He comes to empower us to live like king's kids NOW, in this age - health, wealth, respect, success.

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Richard John Neuhaus

"Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King."

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