



Normal Christian Life
John 16:1-4, 31-33
January 12, 2020

In John 16, Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure from the earth. He knows it will be difficult for them, but he wants them to be at peace. In the (physical) absence of Jesus, we too struggle with and yearn for peace. Last week we noticed that **Peace** can be found in Christ (v. 33). Today we will consider some other things Jesus told his followers they should expect after he leaves.

Knowing what to expect is important because anytime our expectations are *not* met, it can generate unpleasant or even unhealthy feelings. This is true in everyday life and also of our expectations of Christianity. If our actual experience of following Jesus is significantly different than what we expected, we may become disappointed, discouraged, or even angry. Jesus knows this danger, however, and he prepares us for it by giving us realistic expectations for our walk with him. Three realities of Normal Christian Life are mentioned. We can expect:

1. Trouble (v. 33).

2. Persecution (vv. 1-5a; cf. Matthew 10:24-25; Romans 8:17; 2 Timothy 3:12)

3. Sin. This certainly includes the difficulties we face due to other people's sins, but in this passage the specific reference is to our own sins (vv. 31-32, followed immediately by v. 33)(cf. 1 John 1:5-2:2).

Peace may be found in Christ

Every believer can expect trouble, persecution, and sin.

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