

Dr. John Johnson
September 23-24, 2006
The Dangerous Work of Being Jesus to the World
John 16:8-11

Pastor Johnson led us through this short passage which is packed with Jesus' explanation of the Holy Spirit's role as he comes to earth and Jesus departs to heaven. Three important actions that will transpire in his role are:

1. The Spirit will confront the world regarding its unbelief. No one will come to salvation in Christ apart from this work.
2. The Spirit will expose the world to its unrighteousness. Although the world believes itself to be righteous, the Spirit will reveal that only Jesus was righteous and that all our righteousness is as filthy rags.
3. The Spirit will convict the world of its coming judgment. Consequences will happen if it does not focus its trust on Jesus Christ.

By promising this to the disciples and John recording it for us to read, what is Jesus saying to us? The task of the Spirit-filled person or church is clear:

- We must not insulate ourselves rather move out into the square of the world.
- We must not take a defensive posture rather be willing to be a prophetic voice for God.
- We must prepare ourselves for whatever the response: conviction to repentance; passive evasion; or active resistance.

In light of this challenge, here are some discussion questions for you:

1. What was the key thought to you from this message?
2. What do you feel is your level of involvement in these three areas right now?
3. If you are to be the Spirit's "flesh and bones" here on earth, how can you get in step with Him and His purposes?
4. What one step could you take this week which would become a part of your ongoing life that would aid in the Spirit's role through you?
5. What role should our church play in prodding our local community's conscience?