

John 14:15-31

The Promised Counselor

What does Jesus say is one mark of loving Him? Obedience (or keeping His commandments). This is a repetitive theme in verses 15, 21, 23, and 24.

How would you describe the link between obedience and love? How do they fit/work together? Love precedes/drives/motivates obedience. Obedience is evidence of love.

Jesus talks about loving Him. How do we love God? What does that mean? We love God by our attitudes and actions. It is wonderful when our love for Jesus has sentiment and passion, but it must always be connected to keeping His commandments—linked to obedience—or it isn't genuine love at all.

Note: The way to become a great lover of Jesus is by learning to appreciate the greatness of His love for us. The more we grasp the significance of the cross, comprehend grace, and understand our God—and who we are in comparison—the more we will love Him. The better we get to know Him the more we will love Him.

What are some of the ways that obedience is manifest in our lives? Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), speech seasoned with salt, control of tongue, joy in reading the Scriptures. No slander, gossip, worry, or fear.

What picture of the Godhead is seen in verse 16? A clear picture of the Trinity. The Son would request that the Father send the Spirit. Most non-Christian religions deny the trinity of God (e.g., Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism).

Who is the Counselor promised in verse 16? The Holy Spirit

What do we know about the Counselor from verses 16-17?

- He will be with us forever.
- He is the spirit of truth.
- The world cannot accept Him.
- The world cannot see Him or know Him.
- We will know Him.
- He will reside within us. Someone has called this the greatest miracle of all—God in us.

Note: The Greek word translated “helper” or “counselor” is *parakletos*. It literally means to come alongside. It means “a person summoned to one’s aid,” and may refer to an advisor, a legal defender, a mediator, or an intercessor.

- Jesus calls Him “another helper.” The word “another” is the ancient Greek word “*allen*,” meaning “another of the same kind” not another of a different kind. The Spirit is one with the same nature as Jesus—the same in essence. They are both God.
- The role of the Holy Spirit is primarily to glorify Christ. John 16:13–14

Up until this point we have only seen the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. How did He manifest Himself in that era? The Spirit of God came *on* Old Testament believers temporarily to give them strength or power for a specific purpose, but normally He did not remain with them. We read of the Spirit of the Lord coming up on selected leaders of God’s people, such as Othniel (Judges 3:10), Gideon (Judges 6:34), Jephthah (Judges 11:29), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10), David (1 Samuel 16:13), and others.

What picture of the Holy Spirit does Jesus present now in relationship with believers? It’s an abiding, permanent relationship that involves the Spirit remaining in and with all believers forever—not “on” them. “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26).

What do we know about the Holy Spirit from verse 26?

- He is sent in Jesus’ name.
- He will teach disciples all things.
- He will remind disciples of everything Jesus said.

According to verse 27 what is another element of comfort (another reason the disciples are not to be troubled) that Jesus is leaving with them? His peace. Supernatural peace. It's not a worldly peace, but a peace that keeps believers from being troubled or afraid. This peace is described in Philippians 4:7 as "the peace of God which transcends all understanding." Jesus' peace is manifested as a settled confidence that comes from knowing that one is right with God. Again Jesus tries to comfort and prepare the disciples for what will look like incredible defeat (Jesus' death) but is actually the ultimate victory in God's plan.

Why should the disciples be glad that Jesus is leaving them?

- He's going to the Father—who is greater than He (verse 28)
- Jesus will return triumphantly (verse 28)
- The Holy Spirit will come (verse 16)

Who is the prince of this world and what does Jesus say about him? Satan. He is coming (to try and destroy Jesus at the cross) but he has no hold on Jesus.

Why is Jesus telling His disciples all these things in verse 29? So that they will remember that He told them all these things before they took place. When His prophetic words are fulfilled, the faith of the disciples will be greatly strengthened. If the things He promises in the near future (4 days) are fulfilled, then surely His promises about heaven (14:2) are sure and certain as well. Fulfilled prophecy is a great comfort and support to believers—as well as a faith builder.

***Application:* How does the teaching in this passage reassure you?**

MEMORIZE: John 14:27