

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Jesus' "In" Teaching

John 14.11-14

Jesus' "in" theology

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority.

Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work. > "in-living"

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. > "in-believing"

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, > "in-asking"

so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

> "in my name"

> "in-glorifying"

You Must Believe This!

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”

“Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

JOHN 10.38

- ❖ Once again we hear Jesus emphasizing this “in” principle: *“I am in the Father and the Father is in me”*—but this time it is spoken with an increased earnestness: *“Please, please believe . . .”* (Bruner). Jesus followed that appeal with another that seems almost like a final plea— *“at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”*
- ❖ Even as we hear Jesus’ more earnest appeal, we also must not forget that the Father is shaping the very expression of Jesus’ words: *“For I did not speak on my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”* (12.49)

❖ Jesus will not let our focus stray from this principle. There is a cruciality in what he is saying to them that demands repeated emphasis. Even when he appeals to his disciples to believe on the basis of his works, it is for more than just simply believing.

▶ *“I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.”* (5.36)

▶ *“Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”* (10.38)

▶ *“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.”* (14.11)

❖ “Know and understand” – to believe in Jesus is to believe that he is the singular and ultimate revelation of the Father; that the Father is making only one revelation and option available to humanity; beyond Jesus, the Father has nothing else to say.

❖ Furthermore, Jesus will next say something astounding, emphatically telling his disciples that *“whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these . . .”* He will follow that by an even more astounding promise: *“You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.”* But Jesus first wants his disciples to understand that this “in” principle is paramount.

The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” (LUKE 11.17-20)

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ (MATTHEW 7. 22-23)

- ❖ Jesus has connected belief and evidence (works). The one who truly believes in him will have life-evidence that is tangible and obvious. Faith and fruit are inseparable. Jesus will later warn his disciples that the Father “cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit” (15.2). And yet works in themselves are not conclusive evidence that someone has true faith in Jesus—one in whom Jesus’ “in” theology is experiential and authenticating.
- ❖ In Jesus, we are seeing the life of the Father expressed: *“it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work.”* Likewise, our lives must reveal Jesus living in us doing his work. *“On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”* (14.20) Understanding this determines our *viability* as followers of Jesus Christ and our *ability* to reveal him to this world. The implications of this truth are eternal.

“Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.” (LUKE 11.16)