

Those Who Love Jesus, Part 2  
John 14:15-31  
June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

1. The **Root**: Love for Jesus (14:15a, 21, 23, 24, 31)
2. The **Fruit**: Obedience to Jesus (14:15b, 21, 23, 24, 31)
3. The Comforting \_\_\_\_\_: The Presence of God (14:16-27)
  - a. The Father will give us \_\_\_\_\_.  
(vv. 16-17, 25-26)
    - i. The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_.
      1. God and Holy Spirit are used \_\_\_\_\_.
      2. The Holy Spirit possesses \_\_\_\_\_ that only belong to God.
      3. The Holy Spirit does things only \_\_\_\_\_ does.
      4. The Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ with God the Father and God the Son.
      5. \_\_\_\_\_ Testament passages referring to God are quoted in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament referring to the Holy Spirit.
    - ii. The Holy Spirit is a \_\_\_\_\_.
      1. Referred to using \_\_\_\_\_ pronouns.
      2. He has a \_\_\_\_\_.
      3. He has \_\_\_\_\_.

- b. Jesus will not leave us as \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 18-20)
  - c. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to us. (vv. 21-22)
  - d. The Triune God will make His \_\_\_\_\_ with us. (vv. 23-24)
  - e. Jesus will give us His \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 27)
4. The Certain \_\_\_\_\_: The cross and return to the Father (14:28-31)
  5. Applying the Word
    - a. Find \_\_\_\_\_ with God through faith in Jesus.
    - b. God is very \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

Questions for Discussion/Reflection on John 14:15-31

1. Do you ever feel like God is distant? If so, what leads to that experience for you?
2. What are some common questions that Christians have about the nature and identity of the Holy Spirit? What are some common misperceptions?
3. Do you think Jesus' promise about not leaving them as orphans (v. 18) is primarily about the resurrection or sending of the Holy Spirit? (see vv. 18-20 and the broader context)
4. What members of the Trinity are said to "make [their] abode with [us]" in v. 23? How does that compare to Eph. 3:14-17 and 2 Tim. 1:14?
5. How is Jesus' peace different than the peace the world gives? (v. 27)
6. Why does Jesus say, "the Father is greater than I"? (v. 28) How do we interpret that in light of John 1:1, 18; 10:30; 14:11, 31?

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Big idea: Love for Jesus produces obedience to Jesus and results in greater closeness with God.

Intro

You may feel sometimes like God is distant.

It's not that you don't believe in Him.

You see evidence for God in the details of creation.

You recognize fulfilled prophecy.

You understand your own sin.

You believe that Jesus died for your sin.

And yet, sometimes, it might feel like God is real but far away.

He's in the pages of scripture.

He's in the past.

He's in heaven.

But He doesn't feel near.

If that describes your situation sometimes – maybe even now – I encourage you to pay attention to Jesus' words in this section.

It's part 2 of a message I started last week but realized that it was too much to fit into one week.

Last week we saw the root and fruit of the Christian life – love for Jesus leads to obedience to Jesus.

We touched on the comforting promise of the presence of God, but I want to go back and look at that in more detail and add one more point at the end of the chapter on the certain future as Jesus anticipates the cross and return to the Father.

1. The **Root**: Love for Jesus (14:15a, 21, 23, 24, 31)
2. The **Fruit**: Obedience to Jesus (14:15b, 21, 23, 24, 31)
3. The Comforting **Promise**: The Presence of God (14:16-27)

Context is His imminent departure – He is going to go away – and they are troubled by this.

His presence is talked about a number of different ways

The Helper who will be with us forever (v. 16)

Who will abide with us and be in us (v. 17)

He won't leave us as orphans (v. 18)

He will leave us His peace (v. 27)

- a. The Father will give us **another Helper**. (vv. 16-17, 25-26)

He is the Spirit of truth

Because the HS is a major focus of the next few chapters, I want to pause and give a little theology of the HS.

- i. The Holy Spirit is **God**.

Trinity: One “what” and three “who’s”

“God eternally exists as three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and each person is fully God, and there is one God.” Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

Each member of the Trinity thinks, acts, feels, speaks, and relates because they are persons and not impersonal forces.

Each member of the Trinity is equally God, which means that they share all the divine attributes, such as eternity, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

1. God and Holy Spirit are used ***interchangeably***.
  - a. **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a **temple of God** and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
  - b. **1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a **temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
2. The Holy Spirit possesses ***attributes*** that only belong to God.
  - a. Eternal
    - i. **Hebrews 9:14** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
  - b. Omnipresent
    - i. **Psalms 139:7-8** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.
3. The Holy Spirit does things only ***God*** does.
  - a. Involved in creation
    - i. **Genesis 1:1-2** In the beginning God created . . . and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.
4. The Holy Spirit is ***linked*** with God the Father and God the Son.
  - a. **Matthew 28:19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
    - i. Wouldn't say, "Baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and the angel Michael."
    - ii. Linking them together in series shows a certain equality among them.
    - iii. "Name" is singular but all three persons are included.
5. ***Old*** Testament passages referring to God are quoted in the ***New*** Testament referring to the Holy Spirit.
  - a. **Isaiah 6:8-10** “. . . the voice of the Lord”

- i. **Acts 28:25-27** “. . . The Holy Spirit rightly spoke”
  - ii. The Holy Spirit is a **person**.
    1. Referred to using **personal** pronouns.
      - a. **John 16:13-14** "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.
    2. He has a **will**
      - a. **1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
    3. He has **emotions**
      - a. **Ephesians 4:30** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
  - iii. Another (of the same kind) Helper (advocate, encourager, comforter)
- b. Jesus will not leave us as **orphans**. (vv. 18-20)
  - i. He will rise and they will see Him and know that He lives.
  - ii. Immediate promise to the disciples who will see the resurrected Jesus.
  - iii. Extended promise to us as well – because He lives, we will live also.
    1. **John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
    2. We will live eternally with Him and we will be resurrected – our eternity will be in resurrected bodies.
- c. Jesus will **disclose** Himself to us. (vv. 21-22)
  - i. V. 21 repeats the same ideas in the cycle – keeping His commandments shows that we love Him.
  - ii. Josh Moody, “If God seems distant, or Jesus does not seem very personally connected to us, or the Bible does not seem to be speaking to us, it is worth examining ourselves to see whether there is some area of disobedience that we need to bring into line with God’s word. Love for God leads to obedience to God, and obedience to God leads to the experience of the love of God.”
  - iii. Jesus is describing the outcome of obedience in order to motivate obedience. (adapted from Hamilton)
  - iv. If your life has no pattern of deliberate obedience to God, don’t be surprised if you feel distant from God.
    1. His love for you has not changed. He has not changed. What has changed is your closeness.
    2. Like the joke about an old married couple driving in their pickup truck with a bench seat when they see a young couple also in a truck with a bench seat. The wife notices that the young couple is sitting right next to each other and says, “How come we don’t sit like that anymore?” and the husband says, “I didn’t move.”

- d. The Triune God will make His **home** with us. (vv. 23-24)
- i. “We will come to him and make Our abode with him”
  - ii. Even as Jesus told His disciples in v. 2 that He is going to prepare a home for them in the Father’s house with many dwelling places, so He also promises to make our hearts His home.
    1. 75 years ago Robert Munger wrote the classic booklet, *My Heart, Christ’s Home* which imagines Jesus coming into his heart as this verse describes Him making His home with us. As He moves through the different “rooms” of his “house” He reshapes the study (the mind), the dining room (the desires), the living room (the activities) as He conforms us more and more into His image.
  - iii. “We” – The Spirit dwells within us when we come to faith in Jesus. And yet the Father and Son are also said to make our hearts His home.
    1. **Ephesians 3:14-17** For this reason I bow my knees before the **Father**, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His **Spirit** in the inner man, <sup>17</sup> so that **Christ** may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- e. Jesus will give us His **peace**. (v. 27)
- i. “Peace” was both a customary greeting and a customary farewell.
  - ii. **John 16:33** "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
  - iii. The world in opposition to God cannot give peace. It can give wealth, success, and entertainment but it can’t give real peace.
  - iv. His peace guards us against troubled hearts even when the world is crazy, difficult, and painful.
  - v. In the language of Jer. 6:14, the world says “peace, peace when there is no peace.”
  - vi. Jesus brings true peace with God
    1. **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
    2. That is the source and fountain of all true peace. If I’m right with God, everything else is of much less importance, even if there are still other hardships. If I’m NOT right with God, nothing else matters – it’s all temporary.
  - vii. Is this peace objective (a factual reality whether it is felt or not) or subjective (an experience that is felt)?
    1. My peace with God through Jesus is *objective* and it leads to the *subjective* experience of peace.
    2. If our peace is merely subjective, then it is a feeling that may be in error. If it is based on something solid and factual, then it is true of us whether we “feel” it on any particular day.
  - viii. In this upper room discourse, Jesus imparts to His followers “My love” (15:9, 10), “My joy” (15:11), and “My peace” (14:27).

4. The Certain **Future**: The cross and return to the Father (14:28-31)
  - a. Still dealing with their troubled hearts, He takes a new angle.
  - b. Rather than appealing to them to trust Him, look ahead to heaven, pray, rejoice in the HS – He points out what is actually best for Him.
    - i. If they love Him, they would rejoice that He is going to the Father.
    - ii. Where He is going is far greater because the Father is great.
  - c. The Father is greater than I.
    - i. Not in the sense that Jesus is not God or even that Jesus is a lesser God.
      1. That's the historic error of Arius and it lives on in the Jehovah's Witnesses today as well as other groups.
    - ii. Instead, Jesus is emphasizing that He goes to the Father's undiminished glory that He has stepped down from in coming to earth but He is going to return. It also emphasizes that Jesus has submitted Himself to the Father, but submission doesn't negate equality of essence, any more than you submitting to your boss makes him more valuable as a person than you.
  - d. But even as He describes His *going*, He also describes Satan's *coming*.
    - i. Satan indwelt Judas in the carrying out of the betrayal. Satan is seeking to destroy Christ, unaware of that the cross will be his own undoing.
    - ii. When Jesus says, "he has nothing in Me" – it can be translated as "no hold on me" or "no claim on me" – it's an idiom that was used in a legal context to mean someone has no claim on me.
    - iii. Jesus is not of this world, He has no sin, He has no guilt. Satan has no hold on Him. He is not dragging Him to the cross. He goes because He loves the Father and is accomplishing the Father's will.
5. Applying the Word
  - a. Find **peace** with God through faith in Jesus.
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