

Those Who Love Jesus
John 14:15-31
May 31st, 2026

1. The _____ : Love for Jesus (14:15a, 21, 23, 24, 31)

2. The _____ : Obedience to Jesus (14:15b, 21, 23, 24, 31)

3. The Comforting _____ : The Presence of God (14:16-31)

4. Applying the Word
 - a. Embrace the _____ that Jesus leaves with us. (v. 27)

 - b. _____ the Holy Spirit who was sent to us.

 - c. Let love for Jesus joyfully _____ obedience to Jesus.

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

1. Identify each verse in this section that makes a connection between love and obedience. What is the difference between obeying out of love and obeying to earn approval or out of a sense of duty or fear?

2. Do you ever struggle with what it means to love Jesus or wonder if you really do love Jesus? In what way?

3. If you have multiple translations available, what are some of the different terms that you notice for the Holy Spirit in v. 16? What is the strength and weaknesses of those different terms? In other words, how do they help explain the role of the Holy Spirit but how might they be misunderstood?

4. How do you think Jesus “discloses” Himself to those who love Him? (v. 21) How does Judas question and Jesus’ answer help explain what He means? (vv. 22-24)

5. How is the work of the Spirit described in 14:17, 26 and 16:13? How was that fulfilled in the writing of the New Testament? Does it have an ongoing application today?

6. How is the peace that Jesus gives different than the peace the world gives? (v. 27)

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

Intro

Why do people obey God?

Fear – Something bad will happen to me if I disobey

Pride – I want people to see me as a good person

Duty – This is just what I owe God

For approval – Maybe if I'm good enough God will love me

Love – I want to obey because I love Jesus

The unmissable, repeated idea in this passage is that if we love Jesus we will obey Jesus.

¹⁵ "If you **love** Me, you will keep My commandments.

²¹ "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who **loves** Me;

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone **loves** Me, he will keep My word;

²⁴ "He who does not **love** Me does not keep My words;

³¹ but so that the world may know that I **love** the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me.

A key commitment about the gospel is that we saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

So, a key question is, "Does it matter if I obey Jesus?"

If we say, "yes," some people fear that we will be adding works to faith – human effort to what is only by grace.

If we say, "no," then it would seem like we're saying Christians can just sin as much as they want whenever they want because it doesn't matter.

Jesus roots our obedience to Him not in fear (I'll go to hell if I disobey!), pride (I want people to see that I'm a good person), or duty (this is just what I owe God) but in love (I want to obey Jesus because I love Jesus).

John 14:27 repeats the key idea from John 14:1 – Don't let your heart be troubled.

In His compassion, Jesus gets His disciples. He knows they feel troubled at the news that He will soon leave them. He knows they will feel troubled when He does leave them. He knows they will feel troubled off and on as long as they live – just like we do.

Last week we saw that He encouraged them and encourages us to trust Him, remember our home is heaven, consider the heart of God as revealed in Jesus, and pray in His name. Those are powerful truths to recalibrate our troubled hearts.

That is still in the background and we return again to some comforting promises about the presence of God.

Not a very "clean" outline because the main points cycle several times. We'll look at them in detail in vv. 15-20 and then pull in the ways that Jesus repeats and develops the same ideas.

1. The **Root**: Love for Jesus (14:15a, 21, 23, 24, 31)

a. Love in the gospel of John

i. Jesus has described God's love for us that motivated His sending of His Son.

1. John 3:16

- ii. Jesus has demonstrated His own love for His people.
 - 1. **John 13:1** having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.
 - iii. He demonstrated that love and told them to love one another.
 - 1. **John 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
 - iv. Now, for the first time in John He talks about our love for Him.
- b. What does it mean to love Jesus?
- i. It isn't identical with obeying Jesus – love for Jesus leads to obedience to Jesus, but it isn't the same thing, just as lightning leads to thunder but it isn't the same thing as thunder.
 - ii. Love for Jesus precedes and gives rise to obedience (Piper)
- c. To love Jesus is to see the excellence of Jesus, the goodness of Jesus, it's to want Jesus, to want to know Jesus.
- i. Think about the way love is used in these other passages in John to help understand this.
 - ii. John 3:19 – the people loved darkness rather than the light – they wanted the darkness, they didn't want the light, they preferred darkness to the light,
 - iii. John 12:43 – they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God – that's what they wanted – they wanted men to think well of them, they saw man's approval as an excellent thing, they desired that, they valued that, they craved it.
 - iv. John 3:35³⁵ "The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand.
 - v. Matthew 3:17 "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
 - 1. The Father is pleased in the Son, sees the excellence of the Son
- d. vv. 21-24
- i. Our love for the Son is repeatedly emphasized in vv. 21-24, as well as the fruit that comes from loving the Son or the evidence of loving the Son.
2. The **Fruit**: Obedience to Jesus (14:15b, 21, 23, 24, 31)
- a. What is the connection between loving Jesus and obeying Jesus?
 - i. It's the connection between the fruit and the root
 - ii. Love leads to obedience, love results in obedience
 - iii. If we bypass this, we lose the motivation to obey. It becomes mere duty, drudgery, legalism.
 - b. How do I grow in love for Jesus?
 - i. Grow in appreciation for His wisdom, goodness, and trustworthiness.
 - ii. Consider deeply His death in your place.
 - iii. Regularly read the gospels to understand Him better.
 - c. What are the commandments we are to obey?
 - i. He recently gave them a new commandment – to love one another (13:34)
 - 1. That would be the immediate application.
 - ii. Most common command in the book of John may be the command to believe/trust in Him.

iii. More broadly, it's all that Christ commands us in His word

1. What does God's Word say I should do in my marriage, with my money, in parenting, at work, with my inner thought life, with my entertainment, on and on.
2. The disciple who loves Jesus should have a heart posture that says, "I want to obey whatever I'm convinced His word tells me to do."
3. We aren't looking outside of scripture for some inner leading that we need to obey or we don't love Jesus. We look inside scripture to understand how Jesus calls His disciples to live.
4. On the other hand, v. 24 tells us, "He who does not love Me does not keep My words"

3. The Comforting ***Promise***: The Presence of God (14:16-31)

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

b. His presence is talked about a number of different ways

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

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

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

iv. He will leave us His peace (v. 27)

c. The Father will give us another helper (v. 16)

i. "Helper" – counselor, comforter, advocate – no perfect English word that capture the Gk word *paraclete* – it can be a legal technical term, like an advocate or defender, or an encourager

1. Counselor isn't bad as long as we think legal counsel not camp counsellor or marriage counselor (Carson)

2. Comforter worked in old English because it mean to give strength or encourage

3. Helper works as long as we don't think of the Holy Spirit as subordinate or serving us.

ii. "Another" helps us understand – two words for "another" in gk – another of the same kind or another of a different kind.

1. Illustration that I heard that I like – imagine I was eating an apple up front and I wanted to get one for every person here. It was a Cosmic Crisp (our go-to apple right now at the Reinhold home). But if I go to the store to get one for everyone and they don't have enough Cosmic Crisp so some have to have Fuji apples. If I was eating a cosmic crisp and I got a cosmic crisp for you, that would be "another of the same kind" if I got you a Fuji, that would be "another of a different kind." Still an apple, but a different kind.

2. The word Jesus uses here is the word for "another of the same kind."

a. Evidence of the Trinity

3. He has been a helper/advocate/encourager to them. The Father will send another.

4. The HS will be the gift of the Father by request of the Son – the Triune God at work.

5. He will be with us forever – Jesus was leaving them, but the HS will not.

- iii. He is the Spirit of truth
 - 1. Jesus is the truth (14:6) and the Spirit reveals truth, witnesses to the truth as He points to Jesus.
 - 2. **John 14:26** But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.
 - 3. **John 16:13** "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.
 - 4. Primary reference here is to the writing of the NT as the HS brought to "remembrance" all that Jesus had taught the disciples.
 - 5. So the primary application for us is to have confidence in the written Word of God that the disciples wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit.
 - 6. Secondly, there is an ongoing sense in which the Spirit helps us remember, understand, and apply the Word of God.
 - a. **Psalm 119:18** Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.
 - b. 9 times in Ps 119 the psalmist asks God "teach me your statutes."
 - c. MacArthur and Mayhue, "What Christ did for the disciples in opening their minds to understand the Scripture (Luke 24:45), the Holy Spirit does for Christians."
 - d. It's not a substitute for proper study or principles of Bible interpretation.
 - e. But it recognizes that the Spirit works in and through His Word
- iv. The world is the fallen creation in rebellion against God in its thinking and behavior, so it will not see or know the Spirit of truth, except in the Spirit's convicting power.
- v. But for His people, the HS will be in them
 - 1. **John 16:7** "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.
 - 2. If we could have Jesus next to us or the HS in us, Jesus says its better to have the HS in us.
- d. He won't leave them as orphans (v. 18-20)
 - i. He will rise and they will see Him and know that He lives
- e. V. 21 repeats the same ideas in the cycle – keeping His commandments shows that we love Him.
 - i. We will be loved by the Father and Son – explained further by Jesus saying He will disclose Himself to them.
 - ii. We don't earn the Father's love by our obedience – He first loved us (1 John 4:19); He loved us when we were still His enemies (Rom. 5:8, 10) – rather, our relationship with God grows deeper and richer as we know Him better.
 - iii. Experience shows this – a disobedient Christian is an unhappy person.
- f. V. 22-23 The world cannot receive this disclosure because the world doesn't love Jesus. But if "anyone loves Me..." – another broad invitation –
 - i. My Father will love him

- ii. We will come to him and make our home with him (reference to the Spirit of God)
- g. Vv. 28 – The Father is greater, not in the sense that Jesus is not God or even that Jesus is a lesser God. That’s the historic error of Arius and it lives on in the Jehovah’s Witnesses today as well as other groups.
 - i. 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.

4. Applying the Word

- a. Embrace the **peace** that Jesus leaves with us. (v. 27)
- b. **Treasure** the Holy Spirit who was sent to us.
 - i. Perhaps in response to the overemphasis on the Spirit in more charismatic groups, there is a danger in devaluing the significant role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian today.
- c. Let love for Jesus joyfully **motivate** obedience to Jesus.
 - i. Let me tell you a made-up story to illustrate this.
 - ii. There once was an orphaned boy who lost his parents at 2 years old and had lived for the past 8 years in an orphanage. The orphanage had strict rules and was run by a demanding and harsh woman. From the time he woke up until the time he went to bed, there was a long list of chores that he had to perform – sweeping, mopping, cooking, pulling weeds. To skip a task would mean punishment but even a task done as well as he could as a 10 year old was almost always met with a disapproving eye. He lived for those rare moments when the woman seemed at least slightly approving of him. One day man and woman arrived at the orphanage. The boy saw them out the window but didn’t know why they were there, but soon he was called into the lobby. They were there for him. They had been looking for a boy to adopt and they chose him and they brought him home.
 - iii. The difference in this house compared to the orphanage was immediately noticeable. The parents spoke with kind, gentle words not harsh yelling. He had a room to himself and toys and books and shoes that fit. He was determined to do whatever it takes to stay. His parents had a few things for him to do to help out. Each morning he woke up and frantically began to clean inside and work outside. His new parents initially thought he was just a hard worker but they realized that underneath his hard work was fear – fear that he wouldn’t be good enough, fear that they would change their minds, fear that he would be sent back.
 - iv. After one frantic morning of chores, his new mom and dad sat him down and, with kindness in their eyes and voices, said, “We love you. You’re our son. Nothing will change that. You don’t have to earn your spot in this house. You’re safe.” He wanted to believe it but he wasn’t sure. He had never been loved like that. But little by little he became convinced it was true as he experienced their affection, encouragement, laughter, warmth. Even discipline felt different. It felt like they cared about him enough to help him change. His parents noticed a difference in him also. He still did the chores they asked him to do, but there was a lightness and joy to his actions. He obeyed because he loved them. He loved them because he was convinced they loved him.

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