

John 14:15-31

What does Jesus say is one mark of loving Him (v. 15)? Obedience, i.e., keeping His commandments. To John there is only one test of love, and that test is obedience (1 John 5:3). Christ has set the example of love and obedience for all to follow in the way He loved the Father. This is a repetitive theme in vv. 15, 21, 23, and 24.

However, obedience must be empowered by the Holy Spirit. To try and obey in our own strength is to invite failure. That is why the Old Testament saints were unable to obey the regulations of the law. They had no source of power.

It is wonderful when our love for Jesus has sentiment and passion, but it must always be linked to keeping His commandments or it isn't genuine love at all.

Who is “another Counselor” (v. 16)? The Holy Spirit. The word “another” is the ancient Greek word “*allos*” meaning “another of the same kind” not another of a different kind. The Holy Spirit has the same nature as Jesus—they are the same in essence. They are both God.

What else does Jesus reveal about the Holy Spirit (v. 16)? He would abide with them forever as opposed to the Old Testament when the Spirit of God came upon 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 upon selected leaders of God's people, such as Gideon (Judges 6:34), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10) and David (1 Samuel 16:13) but he often left them. Now He would come to remain forever.

When will the promised Counselor arrive? At Pentecost (Acts 2).

What do we know about the Counselor (vv. 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 forever. This has been called the greatest miracle of all—God in us.

Note: The Greek word translated “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.

What picture of the Holy Spirit does Jesus present now in relationship with believers (v. 17)? It is an abiding, permanent relationship that involves the Spirit remaining “in” and with all believers forever—not merely “on” them. “*He lives with you, and will be in you.*” This relationship was prophesied in the Old Testament: “*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.....*” (Ezekiel 36:26).

The unbelieving world cannot receive the Spirit because it cannot see Him and knows nothing of Him experientially (1 Corinthians 2:14). The unbelieving world walks by sight.

What did Jesus mean when He said, “I will come to you” (v. 18-19)? He was most likely referring to His post-resurrection appearances. After His resurrection, He appeared only to believers who loved Him. Jesus is promising them that His resurrection would serve as a pledge of their own resurrection.

What does, “On that day” refer to (v. 20)? Commentators are divided. Some say it refers to Pentecost when the outpoured Holy Spirit will give evidence of Jesus' ascension to the Father (Acts 2). Others say it refers to His resurrection at Easter which serves as the basis for believers' assurance of their own resurrection.

What is the point Jesus is making in v. 21? The real proof of one's love of the Lord is obedience to His commandments. In one sense, the Father loves all the world. But He has a special love for those who love His Son. Those are also loved by Christ, and He makes Himself known to them in a special way. The more we love the Savior, the better we shall know Him.¹

What was “the other Judas” confused about (v. 22)? Judas wanted to know what Jesus meant when He said earlier that He was not going to reveal Himself publicly, but just privately to the Eleven. He could not understand how the Lord could appear to the disciples without also being seen by the world. He probably envisioned the Savior riding into town like a conquering King or popular Hero.

How did Jesus respond to Judas' question (vv. 23-24)? Jesus did not clear up Judas' misconception, apparently because He wanted to stay on the subject of the importance of loving and obeying Him. Jesus stressed the principle that loving obedience always results in intimate fellowship.

Judas and his fellow disciples failed to realize that Jesus would reveal Himself to them privately, after His resurrection, before He would later reveal Himself publicly—at His second coming.²

On the other hand, those who do not love Him do not obey His teachings. And they are not only refusing the words of Christ, but those of the Father as well (cf. 12:49; 14:10).³

What promise did Jesus make to His disciples (vv. 25-26)? Jesus now identified the Helper whom He had promised earlier as the Holy Spirit (cf. vv. 16-17) and that they would fully understand His words later when the Holy Spirit came to abide in them at Pentecost.

What do we know about the Holy Spirit from v. 26?

- He is sent in Jesus' name. Soon the Spirit would come as the Son's representative just as the Son had come as the Father's representative.
- He will teach the disciples all things.
- He will remind the disciples of everything Jesus said to them.

What is another element of comfort that Jesus is leaving with them (v. 27)? In His death, Jesus provided a legacy for His disciples: My peace I give you, i.e., inner, supernatural peace of conscience that arises from a sense of pardoned sin and of reconciliation with God. Christ can give it because He purchased it with His own blood at Calvary.⁴ Thus they need not be troubled (cf. 11:33; 13:21; 14:1). Fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15) and fear of the future are removed as Jesus' followers trust in Him.

Jesus' peace is manifested as a settled confidence that comes from knowing that one is right with God. Jesus tries to comfort and prepare the disciples for what will look like an incredible defeat (Jesus' death) but is actually the ultimate victory in God's plan.

How can the Father be greater than the Son (v. 28)? As far as deity is concerned, they are the same. Jesus had affirmed repeatedly that He and the Father were one. But when you consider the lowly place that Jesus took as a Man here on earth, in that sense the Father was greater. Jesus had laid His heavenly glory aside in the Incarnation, but the Father had not done so, and consequently enjoyed greater glory than the Son during Jesus' earthly ministry. He was greater as to His position but not as to His Person. However now Jesus was about to return to the Father and to the greater glory that He would again share with the Father.

Why was Jesus telling His disciples all these things (v. 29)? So that they will remember that He told them all these things before they actually 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.

Who is the prince of this world and what does Jesus say about him (v. 30)? The prince of this world is Satan. He is coming (to try and destroy Jesus at the cross) but he has no hold on Jesus. Satan is powerless over Jesus. He has no legal claim on Jesus. Satan would have had a justifiable charge against Jesus if He had sinned.

What is Jesus saying in v. 31? We might paraphrase this verse as follows: *"The time of my betrayal is at hand. I shall go voluntarily to the cross. This is the Father's will for me. It will tell the world how much I love My Father. That is why I am now going without offering any resistance."*⁵

¹ William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1547.

² Dr. Thomas L. Constable, Notes on John, 2023 Edition (published by <http://planobiblechapel.org/soniclight/>), 386.

³ William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 1548.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid., 1549.