

John 14:15-18

“Comforting Love”

Review

- I. V.1-6 – Why did Jesus tell them not to be troubled?**
 - A. V.1 – His identity: *“You believe in God, believe also in Me”* = I Am God!
 - B. V.2 – His Father’s house
 - C. V.3 – His promised return: *“I will come again”*
 - D. V.4 – His direction: *“And where I go you know, and the way you know.”*

- II. V.7-11 – Why didn’t Thomas (the disciples) know where Jesus was going?**
 - A. They didn’t completely understand His purpose: why He had come.
 - B. They didn’t completely understand His identity: Who He was.

- III. V.12-14 – In Jesus’ name**
 - A. V.12 – Believing in Jesus’ name
 - B. V.13-14 – Praying in Jesus’ name

Body

- I. V.15-18 – Comforting Love**
 - A. V.15 – 1st evidence of love: obedience – v.21, 23; 15:10; 1 John 5:3.
 - 1) Jesus proved His love for us by proving His love for His father through humble obedience; even death – Phil. 2:5-8.
 - a) *The main way we know if we truly love God is if we do what He says/asks which follows Jesus’ example* – John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 13:15; 14:31; 15:12-13.

- b) *When we truly love God, our obedience will motivate, guide & impact every facet of our life – v.13-14; 1 John 3:16, 18, 22; 4:7-11, 20-5:3.*
- c) *When we don't obey God, it reveals what's really in our heart for God, and many times, that's not love. We love **what** He has done or His benefits, but when we truly have a love **for** God, we desire to please Him.*

2) Why does God place such an emphasis on obedience to Him in proving our love for Him? To cut through the fluff of verbal love/commitment – Luke 6:46.

- a) *God wants wholehearted surrender b/c His commandments, while not burdensome, completely challenge our natural tendencies – Gal. 5:17-21; Eph. 4:1-13.*
- b) *If we truly love God, we'll obey Him even when it's difficult, inconvenient, uncomfortable or contrary to our human nature.*

B. V.16 – 2nd evidence of love: prayer.

- 1) *One of the greatest ways we can prove our love for God is by showing our love for others through intercessory prayer.*

C. V.16-17 – 3rd evidence of love: provision.

- 1) V.16 – *He gives us **another** Helper (Comforter).*
 - a) Another = (Gr. – another of the same kind) God's comforts are boundless – Ps. 94:19.
 - b) Helper (Parakletos – Comforter) = called alongside to assist; advocate – 1 John 2:1; 1 Tim. 2:5; Is. 49:13.
 - i) Comforter – compound Latin: (1) Con = to be in company with (2) Fortis = to strengthen... “*One who strengthens through companionship*”

ii) *God gives us the presence of His Spirit to assist, comfort & strengthen us; He won't abandon us.*

iii) ***While God doesn't need our assistance, comfort or strength, we desperately need His!***

2) V.17 – The Comforter is also the Spirit of truth.

1) ***One of the areas we need the greatest assistance in is determining & identifying truth – 1 Cor. 2:12-16; Heb. 5:12-14; Col. 2:8; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1, 6; 2 Pet. 2:1-3.***

2) Our world is starving for truth... ***THE Truth – John 14:6.***

a) *The world cannot receive God's Spirit of truth b/c they neither see nor know Him: **They don't see/know the Spirit b/c they don't know Jesus the Son.***

i) *They're blinded by their own version of truth, which leads to them rejecting Jesus altogether – John 1:4-5; 3:17-21; 8:37, 43, 45; Gal. 4:16.*

b) *But **you** (disciples; Christians) know Him, b/c He dwells (Gr. *meno* = to continually abide) **with** you & will be **in you** – Rom. 8:16; Eph. 1:13; 1 John 3:24; 4:13.*

i) ***Since the Spirit of God is the Spirit of truth, He won't do, say or guide us to anything that is contrary to God's truth.***

ii) ***We no longer have to ask God for His Holy Spirit, but we do need to pray for the humility to be controlled by the Spirit of God that abides in us as His children – 1 Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30; Ps. 78:41.***

D. V.18 – 4th proof of love: protection

1) ***"I will not leave you orphans (comfortless)"*** = doesn't mean there won't be uncomfortable situations (13:36-14:4); it means God will never leave us during those circumstances.

a) *“We are not alone, abandoned, helpless and hopeless.”* –
Warren Wiesrbe

i) Deut. 31:6 & 8; Josh. 1:9; 2 Tim. 1:7