

# John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

## *Discipleship Fundamentals*

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John 14.15-21



- ❖ We refer to chapter fourteen as *Jesus' "Father" Theology* because it contains the most references to the Father (17): the Father's house, the way to the Father, seeing the Father, knowing the Father, in the Father, asking the Father, and what the Father will do.
- ❖ In the first fourteen verses, Jesus has presented the doctrines of eschatology (future events), soteriology (salvation), Christology (the preeminence of Christ), and God the Father; he has also taught about spiritual union, faith, and prayer.
- ❖ In this next section, Jesus presents his discipleship theology based on the paradigm of his own relationship with the Father, while also continuing to emphasize his "in" teaching of the previous section; he introduces his theology of the Holy Spirit, and in doing so, establishes the doctrine of the Trinity; he also references the doctrine of adoption, and emphasizes implications of his resurrection in expressions that mirror his words to Martha at the resurrection of her brother.



<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”



15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. › *discipleship*

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—

17 the Spirit of Truth. › *Holy Spirit* › *Trinity*

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. › *adoption*

19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me.

Because I live, you also will live. › *resurrection*

20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father,  
and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

He who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I too will love him and show myself to him." › *discipleship*



## *Jesus' discipleship teaching*

14.15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.

He who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I too will love him and show myself to him.

23 Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.

My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

31 . . . that the world may learn that I love the Father  
and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

15.10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love."



14.16 And I will ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—  
17 the Spirit of Truth.

*Jesus' Holy Spirit teaching*

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Father will send in my name,  
will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

15.26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—  
the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father—  
he will testify about me.

16.7 Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you;  
but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment . . .

16.13 But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.  
He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears,  
and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will glorify me because it is from me  
that he will receive what he will make known to you.

15 . . . the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.



# Jesus' Discipleship Fundamentals

*"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth."*

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- ❖ The first discipleship fundamental that Jesus presented was the connection between loving him and obeying his commands. The two are inseparably linked because every aspect of our relationship with Jesus is based on his relationship with the Father—*just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.*
- ❖ The second fundamental relationship is the indwelling presence and work of the Holy Spirit. His specific work is to reveal Jesus and bring us into a relationship that reveals Christ in and through us. Because he is the *Revealer*—Spirit of Truth—it is only possible to truly enter into the life of Jesus (who is the Truth) through the work of the Holy Spirit within one's life. The true proof of discipleship will be a life that reflects the likeness and the priorities of Jesus Christ.