

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Discipleship Fundamentals: The "Love-Obedience" Paradigm

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.

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 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 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.”

Jesus' "love-obedience" paradigm

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."

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."

- ❖ 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 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.*

Jesus' First Discipleship Fundamental

"If you love me, keep my commands."

❖ A glossary of terms:

(1) "love" (*agapao*) - to love, value, esteem
to be faithful towards
to delight in

(2) "keep" (*tereo*) - to watch guard (keep your eye on)
to perform watchfully, vigilantly

(3) "commands" (*entole*) - to charge, command (Note: *entole* stresses the authority of the one commanding, while *entalma* stresses the thing commanded)

❖ Examining Jesus' statement:

“If you love me, keep my commands” has often been read as: “If you love me, prove it by keeping my commands.” Is this what Jesus means?

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.

Was Jesus loved by the Father because he was obedient? Is obedience the condition for being loved and the proof of loving?

❖ Three questions:

(1) When did God extend His love to us?

(2) Is obedience the necessary prerequisite for being loved?

(3) Are we “un-loved” by God when we are not obedient?

Jesus' "Love-Obedience" Paradigm

"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."

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

JOHN 14.31

- ❖ Jesus was neither questioning the love of his disciples nor placing conditions on whether they would be loved in return by him and the Father. The Pharisees were motivated by duty which in turn produced self-righteousness. Jesus was motivated by love, which in turn produced selflessness. His esteem and love for the Father led him to want to obey the Father; his love for people led him to want to lay down his life for them. *"Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love."* 13.1

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

*“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body You prepared for me;
with burnt offerings and sin offerings
You were not pleased.*

*Then I said, ‘Here I am — as it is written about me in the scroll —
I have come to do Your will, O God.’ “*

*And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body
of Jesus Christ once for all.*

HEBREWS 10.5-7, 10

- ❖ *At the heart of Jesus’ effectual obedience was his love. Obedience out of duty or self-effort counts for nothing (Galatians 5.6); obedience prompted by fear is absent God’s love (1 John 4.18); sacrifice lacking love is meaningless (1 Corinthians 13.3).*

The Bottom Line of “Love-Obedience”

“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.”

“You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 13.13-15

- ❖ What would you be unwilling to do for Jesus? What was Jesus unwilling to do for you in obedience to his Father? To call him “Lord,” is to declare his authority over my life; to esteem him as Lord, is to honor his authority over my life; to love him as Lord, is to be fully surrendered to him as he was to his Father, not withholding any aspect of my will, but delighting in doing his will. This, then, becomes the key to ⁽¹⁾ experiencing more of his love (and more of the security of his love) in my life (14.21; 15.10), and ⁽²⁾ a life that is capable of revealing Jesus to this world (13.34-35).