

## I. Opening Thoughts/Observations

- A. Jesus continues to give the disciples more promises and assurances as He prepares them for His departure from them
- B. One of the promises in this passage is the coming of the Holy Spirit, who will empower them to obey Him and who will abide in them forever
- C. Big Idea: The Holy Spirit dwells in all believers forever
- D. Goal: Christ leaves all believers with the means to obey Him

## Exegesis

## II. Principles

- A. Principle 1 – Love of God is obedience to God (vs. 15)
  1. There is an uncompromising connection between loving God and obeying Him. We do not love God because we obey Him; we obey Him because we love Him. Love produces obedience.
  2. “Obedience is an inevitable consequence of affection for Christ” – R.C. Sproul
  3. God’s commandments are not hard, nor are they a burden
  4. 1 John 2:3; 5:2b-3
  5. We are not to obey just the ethical (moral) commands, but the entire revelation from the Father
  6. Keeping the commandments of Christ call for the practice of godliness, personal holiness, hating the world, etc. The lifestyle of obedience is only accomplished by the indwelling Holy Spirit
- B. Principle 2 – Christ’s commands come with the ability to fulfill them (vs. 16)
  1. Jesus introduces the ministry of the Holy Spirit and His roles in the life of the believer. In this text, He speaks of the Holy Spirit (vss. 16-17) as 1) a person, 2) helper, 3) abiding, 4) the spirit of truth, 5) not received by the world, 6) known by Christ’s followers, 7) dwells with us, 8) will come to us
  2. The Holy Spirit is the means of obedience for the believer. It is a promise of the New Covenant spoken by God through Jeremiah (31:31-34) and Ezekiel (36:26-27)
  3. “Another helper” - *Paraklete* (Greek) = Counselor, Advocate, Comforter. *Para* = alongside; *kletos* = to call
  4. Jesus is the original Paraklete (1 John 2:1), but He will send “another Helper”, the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity
    - a. “Advocate” – in antiquity, a defense attorney was a paraklete, one “called alongside” to help you in your defense
    - b. Comforter – in our day, it means “to console in times of pain”, which is true of the Holy Spirit; however, in KJV, when English was more closely tied to its Latin roots, “comfort” meant “with strength.” The Comforter comes to strengthen you
    - c. Counselor – same as an advocate; someone who can defend your case
  5. Jesus promised that the Paraklete will abide with them forever. He never leaves – Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20
- C. Principle 3 – A person cannot know the truth of God apart from the Holy Spirit (vs. 17)
  1. God’s commands are illumined to the spirit-filled, spirit-led life. Only the regenerate are spirit-filled and spirit led. Therefore, only the regenerate can know the truth of God.
  2. 1 Corinthians 2:11-16 – How do we understand truth? How can we know the truth of God? The Holy Spirit gives the believer the ability to know the word of God. The world “cannot” receive the truth. The “natural man” is the unredeemed, unregenerate, unsaved, spiritually dead man
  3. “World” = the moral order in rebellion against God; “cannot see Him” = His person, His deity. The unsaved cannot receive nor know the truth of God apart from the Holy Spirit
  4. The regenerate, on the other hand, know Him because of the indwelling Holy Spirit
  5. As the spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit:
    - a. Inspired the Bible – 2 Timothy 3:16
    - b. Illumines the Bible – 1 Corinthians 2:14
    - c. Applies the truth of the Word of God with power, cutting between bone and marrow – Hebrews 4:12
    - d. Exposes falsehood

- D. Principle 4 - Jesus will not abandon His own (vs. 18)
  - 1. He will not leave them as orphans, without anyone to support or care for them
  - 2. Jesus promised them that He will come to them at the resurrection (vs. 19a; cp. Acts 10:41) and at the day of Pentecost by sending the Holy Spirit
- E. Principle 5 – Believers have fellowship with one another in Christ and with God and Christ (vs. 20)
  - 1. Believers participate in a mystical union Christ. It is an intimate and inseparable union. It is mutual. We are in Christ; Christ is in us!
  - 2. As Christ is in the Father, we are in Christ and Christ is in us. As a Christian, you are in Christ. I am in Christ. Many of Paul’s letter speak of believers being “in Christ”, which means “into”. We are “into” Christ, and He is “into” Christ. Because of this, we have a mystical union with each other that transcends all other human relationships.
  - 3. Implications are massive
    - a. If I hate someone who is in Christ, not only am I sinning against that person, but against Christ Himself
    - b. This explains the command to love one another, at least for Christ’s sake
- F. Principle 6 - He who obeys God’s Word will experience more intimate fellowship with Him – (vss. 21-24)
  - 1. Jesus promises that He would love them and manifest Himself to them
  - 2. Christ will accept as lovers of Him those who have His commandments and keep them.
  - 3. Matthew Henry writes: “Note, the surest evidence of our love to Christ is obedience to the laws of Christ. Such is the love of a subject to his sovereign, a dutiful, respectful, obedient love, a conformity to his will, and satisfaction in his wisdom.”<sup>1</sup>
  - 4. What does “have” and “keep” mean?
    - a. To “have” His commandments means to possess, hold on to, cling to
    - b. To “keep” His commandments means to guard, watch, protect, observe
  - 5. The returns the believer will have from God in obeying Him are rich indeed: They will be loved by God. They will also be loved by Christ. The intimacy of love and fellowship between the obedient believer, Christ, and God is unparalleled by any earthly union – vss. 21, 23
  - 6. Jesus shows that there is no neutral position with Him. Either we love Him or we hate Him. Either we are obedient or disobedient. Love is the root of obedience and obedience is the fruit of love. The opposite is true also. To hate Christ is the root of disobedience and disobedience is the fruit of hating Christ – vss. 23-24a
  - 7. Lastly, to reject Christ’s word is to reject God, from whom Christ’s word emanate

### III. Applications

- A. Pray and ask God the Father that the Holy Spirit:
  - 1. Prepares your heart to hear and receive the Word when it is preached and read
  - 2. Illumines the Word every time you hear it and study it
  - 3. Applies the preached and studied Word to your heart
  - 4. Helps you to obey the Word and commands of God as they are applied to your heart
  - 5. Reveals the truth of the gospel to the hearts of the unsaved, leading them to salvation
- B. Christ’s obedience saved you. Obey Him in return.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry’s commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume* (p. 2015). Peabody: Hendrickson.