

Title: IF YOU LOVE ME, JOHN 14:15 – 24
(Chatham, NJ; 05/25/14, AM) [D – Exegesis]

Theme: Jesus explains the resulting behaviors that come from the claim that we love him.

Purpose: To explain his statements and to demonstrate that God lives with those who obey.

Introduction:

1. “If you love me” is a suppositional statement that should be followed by “then,” a condition of the first statement.
2. The second statement is necessary to satisfy the first. If this, then that.
3. Without the second requirement, the condition is not met.
4. In this statement the idea that we love God is dependent on whether we obey him.
5. Jesus applies this logic in several ways.

I. If . . . You Will Keep My Commandments (15 & 21)

A. Love obeys

1. Loving God is not the first step; it sets up a condition that can only be satisfied by keeping the commandments.
2. We demonstrate our love for God by obedience.
3. John affirms as much in 1 John 2:4-6.
4. First, we cannot claim to know God if we don't obey.
5. Second, keeping God's word perfects love.

B. Love and obedience: equated, or at least inseparable

1. The obedient person is the one who loves Jesus, verse 21
2. Romans 13:8-10, love fulfills the law because love obeys it
3. Obedience demonstrates love for God
4. This kind of love transcends mere emotional attachment: we don't fall in love with God, we demonstrate love for God

II. If . . . You'll Be Loved by God, and Jesus Will Manifest Himself, 21

A. Loved by my Father: God reciprocates

1. The one who loves Christ (by his obedience) will be loved by the Father
2. Not necessarily a condition of God's love, see 1 John 4:10-12; God loved us first by sending his Son
3. We can still affirm that God loves all mankind, even those who hate him, Jn. 3:16
4. More of an affirmation that God provides special care for those that love Him

B. Jesus will manifest himself to that person

1. “Manifest” is used in Exodus 33:13, 18 when Moses asked God to reveal Himself
2. It is also used of Christ post-resurrection “appearances”
3. Christ is revealed and experienced at a new level to those who obey
4. Obedience breeds an awareness of Christ: we come to know Him because we share in his way of life and inmost thoughts, John 15:15
5. As 1 John 2:4-6 affirmed, we cannot claim intimacy with God if we disobey
6. Knowing God transcends any miraculous event, vision, or alleged spiritual experience: we know God when we obey him

III. If . . . We Will Make Our Home with Him, 23

A. The one who keeps my word

1. If he keeps my word, my Father will love him
2. This repeats what Jesus has already affirmed, 17

- B. God will make his home with us
 - 1. He dwells with you, 17
 - 2. He abides with us, 1 John 4:12
 - 3. Home is a place of refuge; God is the refuge of the righteous, Ps. 18:1-2
 - 4. Home is also a place of familiarity, comfort, and love

Conclusion:

- 1. We are aware of God's presence, not by the miraculous and the supernatural, but by our obedience to his Word.
- 2. It doesn't demand some special spiritual endowment to experience "God with us."
- 3. In all of this, he sends The Helper, 16.
- 4. He does not abandon us as orphans, 18.
- 5. Obedience leads to an awareness of familial bonds, 20.
- 6. The most important result is that we will live, 19.
- 7. Do you love God? Obey him.
- 8. Do you want God to be present in your life? Obey him.
- 9. Do you want to live? Keep his word.
- 10. Obedience is the most authenticating activity to experience the presence of God.
- 11. It is open to all; won't you be open to it today? Christ is revealed and experienced at a new level to those who obey