

Title: LOVE AND OBEY, JOHN 14:15-24
(Chatham, NJ; 05/29/11, AM) [Pd – Exegetical, Two-Point Outline]

Theme: Jesus describes the heart of discipleship as love demonstrated by obedience which in turn invites God into the disciple's life.

Purpose: To demonstrate that love and obedience are intertwined and that God is present when the disciple obeys.

Introduction:

1. On the eve of his departure Jesus explains the heart and soul of discipleship as love demonstrated by obedience.
2. The disciple is then rewarded by the presence of God.
3. This is as expected. Even in the old covenant God's continued presence and protection of his people was predicated upon their adherence to his commands. When they persistently disobeyed, he left them.
4. Let's consider the reciprocal arrangement of love and obedience, and we'll feel more confident in the promise of God's presence as a result.

I. Love and Obedience Related, John 14:15.

- A. Not love first, then obedience follows
 1. We may indeed love God because he first loved us.
 2. But it is not the same kind of "falling in love" that we associate with human relationships.
 3. Obedience is not necessarily an automatic, certain response to God's love.
 4. The question remains about how we demonstrate our love in return.
 5. It is not a matter of whether God loves us but of how we return our love to him.
- B. Obedience demonstrates love, John 14:21.
 1. Jesus clarifies verse 15 with verse 21.
 2. The one who can truly say he loves God is the one who obeys him.
 3. A person's motivation is not the issue here.
 4. The issue is determining a disciple's status: obedience demonstrates love.
 5. John clarifies this in 1 John 2:3-6 and 3:18.

II. Keep the Commandments: Live in the Presence of God. (Cause and effect relationship between obeying and living with the presence of God)

- A. If you love me...(15)
 1. Jesus addresses the disciples: you.
 2. One might argue that no direct cause and effect relationship exists between obedience and the sending of the helper, but there must be some connection since he promises his presence several different times in this passage.
 3. The Helper will come and he will be with you and in you.
 4. "Because I live, you will live," 19.
 5. You will know that "I am in the Father" (20, 10), "and you in me, and I in you," (also verse 20).
 6. The coming of the Helper will confirm that Jesus and the Father are one.
 7. But obedience to the commandments also confirms the presence of God.
 8. If we do them we can be assured that we live with God and he with us.
- B. He...(21)
 1. He it is who loves me: the one who obeys.
 2. The disciple says "I love you" to God by his behavior.
 3. Again, notice the promise.

4. He will be loved by my Father.
5. I will love him.
6. I will show myself to him.
7. In obedience love is reciprocated, and God is present.
8. The more we walk in the holiness of God's commandments, the more his holiness manifests itself in our lives.

C. Anyone...(23)

1. Jesus responds to a question about manifesting himself to the disciples only or to the entire world.
2. His answer indicates that he means this for all people.
3. If a person loves God, he'll keep his word (obey).
4. This connects love and obedience one more time.
5. He furthermore affirms that God will be present in this environment: my Father will love him (same as 21), we'll come to him, and we'll make our home with him.
6. A person who keeps God's word is at home in such a situation; God lives with him.

Conclusion:

1. If we love God, we must demonstrate it by obedience.
2. Jesus makes obedience the key to demonstrating our love for Him (Mt. 7:21).
3. Show your love to him. Obey!
4. Obeying the Gospel is the first step.
5. The next steps are directing your life toward God's way of life in everything.