



The Holy Spirit helps us keep Christ's commands

John 14:15-21

[based on the sermon presented on 14.5.23 – available on the [church app](#) or at <https://lwac.org.au/sermons>]

KEY IDEAS

1. Jesus makes a necessary connection between loving him and obeying his commands
2. But we are not left to try and obey on our own, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to abide with us, literally be in us, and help us obey.
3. Because we belong to Christ, Christ is in us through his Holy Spirit, and thus we belong to God, too.

CONNECT

- Consider a time when you needed to do something but which you realized you could not do on your own and needed help. What was this like? Was it easy asking for help? Was it humbling? If you were then able to do this task, how did it feel to accomplish it?

STUDY

Read John 14:15, 21

- By implication, if we don't obey or keep Jesus' commands, what does this indicate about our love for Jesus?
- Does this connection between love and obedience seem fair or unfair? Why? Can you think of a human-to-human relationship in which behavioural expectations also accompany professions of love? If behavioural change or commitment following expressions of love is legitimate in human relationships, how much more so with God?

- How easy is it to keep Jesus' commands? Identify one command you find it easy to follow. As you are able and as appropriate, identify another command you find it difficult to follow.

Read John 14:16-17

- Counselor here literally means advocate or defender. The Holy Spirit defends us from the attacks and lies of Satan before God and in our own hearts and minds. What are some lies which Satan tries to tell you about who God is or about who you are? What are the corresponding truths with which the Holy Spirit defends and helps us?
- As you are able, identify a time when you were struggling in some way and the Holy Spirit provided help to you. What did that help look like? Working out circumstances? Bringing someone along to help? Inner strength and peace? A still small voice of encouragement?
- If the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth yet the world does not know him and thus cannot accept him, does this help explain why the world (generally) does not take the truth of Jesus as God and saviour seriously?
- What other truths does the world not take seriously, or correspondingly, what are some lies which the world readily and consistently believes (about God, humans, our behaviour or any aspect of the world around us)?

Read John 14:18-20

- Jesus declares he will not leave the disciples as orphans but will come to them. He obviously did this after he rose from the dead. But since Jesus' teaching also applies to us, those who come after, how does Jesus come to us? How does Jesus make his presence known to us? Share as you are able about an experience when you felt the presence of Jesus particularly close to you.
- Jesus also declares that though the world will not see him anymore after he is dead, they, his disciples (and us, presumably), will see him. How does this happen? How do we "see" the resurrected Jesus?
- What does Jesus mean when he states that because he lives, we (his disciples) will also live? Live how? Where? When?
- Three times in v. 20 Jesus uses the preposition "in": he is in the Father, we are in him, and he is in us. In each of these uses "in" means to be in union with, or even enveloped within. Being "in" Jesus, then, is more than just saying a simple prayer; if we are in union with Jesus or enveloped within him, we are in lock-step with him, we are connected to him (and he with

us). Does this make more sense of Jesus' command that if we love him we will obey him? If we don't obey him how can we say we are in union with him or are connected to him?

- Based on this, what does you being "in" Jesus and Jesus being "in" you through his Holy Spirit mean to and for you?
- On a piece of paper, draw a diagram showing what these connected "ins" might look like. Does this help you understand the relationship between Jesus and the Father and Jesus and us?

APPLY

- What is one area of obedience, or one command of Jesus, with which you need help from the Holy Spirit in order to keep or follow? How can you learn to call out to and rely on the Holy Spirit more?
- Which other aspect of this study has struck you the most and why? What are you going to do as a result ?
- Identify one or more truths from this study which speak to and can be applied in your life.
 - 1.
 - 2.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH AND FOR ONE ANOTHER

- According to need.