
Sermon Notes

June 28, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Heart of Jesus: The Obedient Heart

John 14:15-31

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸ You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

Two Rails

- ❖ Train tracks need two rails to keep the train moving in the right direction
- ❖ Two rails of the Christian life
 - what God has done and is doing for us in Christ
 - how we respond to and grab hold of God's grace
- ❖ The two rails are represented by Jesus' promises (John 14:3, 12, 13-14, 16) and His conditional statement that governs those promises (John 14:15)

Love AND Obedience

- ❖ If we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments
 - the center of our hearts will be sensitized to following through on what Jesus calls us to be and do
 - amidst daily "ups and downs", there will be discernible progress in our obedience of Christ's commands
- ❖ Jesus' words strike at the heart of antinomianism
 - the mistaken belief that the law is the enemy of grace
 - a false line drawn between the God of Sinai and the God of grace
- ❖ Love, not law, is the driving force in the Christian life, but such a love WILL be a love that conforms to the commands of Christ

- true love is the foundation for true obedience
- morality brings the desire to do the right thing
- submitting to Christ brings the **POWER** to do the right thing

Obedience and the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Obedience to Christ's commands is empowered by the Holy Spirit's work within us
 - this is completely supernatural
 - it is absolutely paramount if we are going to live the fruitful, abundant life Christ comes to give us
- ❖ To love Christ is to obey Him (v. 23)
- ❖ To not obey is to show that we do not love (v. 24)

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

- ❖ Showing our love for Christ through obedience is inseparably linked to knowing Christ and making Him known
 - Jesus' new commandment (John 13:34-35)
 - obeying this command is a key means we are given to make Christ known
- ❖ Loving others means we will serve them, sacrifice for them, and share with them

- we cannot claim to love others and not tell them the truth about Jesus
- ❖ A sub-Christian mentality that claims to love Jesus but feels compelled to discard those sections of Scripture that seem to offend modern sensibilities
 - what is the most loving thing you can do for someone who has been sucked by Satan into succumbing to these sorts of lies?
 - bring them to John 15:14, 23-24, 1 John 2:3-5!
- ❖ Love for Jesus is demonstrated by active, eager, joyful, responsive obedience to His commandments!
- ❖ Jesus is clear, *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.* (Matthew 7:21)

Personal Application

1. Do you love Jesus? Do you show Him your love by obeying the things He commands?
2. What things can you point to in your life that reflect your most recent progress in demonstrating loving obedience to Christ?
3. Are there any ways in which your thinking has been influenced by the mistaken belief that there is a dividing line between God's law and God's grace? How do these words from Jesus challenge you to reevaluate that sort of thinking?
4. How aware are you of the Holy Spirit's active ministry within you to give you the supernatural power you need in order to obey Christ?