

John 14:21-31

Verse 21 Jesus states again that true love for Him will result in obedience, sanctification, and keeping His commandments. The believer has been predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son (**Romans 8:29**) and sanctification is the will of God for the lives of His elect (**1 Thess 4:3**). Those who love the Son are loved by the Father. The Father has loved the Son before the foundation of the world (**John 17:24**) and those who share in the union of sonship with His Son via adoption as sons (**Romans 8:14-15**) are loved with same love He had upon His Son before the foundation of the world (**John 17:22-26**). As the Son loves the Father, we who share in His sonship through adoption as Sons will love the Father and have the privilege to cry Abba, Father! All those who love Christ are loved by Christ and this loved was seen most clearly when He would lay His life down for His sheep on the cross. Those who love Him do so because He loved them first and those are the ones He will disclose or show/reveal Himself to.

- **Matthew 11:25-27** At that ^[a]time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. ²⁷All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

Verses 22-25 Anyone who loved Jesus will love and keep His words. The immediate context for these disciples would have been the Old Testament and the words He had spoken to them while He was with them in His earthly ministry. The words of Christ that we have are found in the written word of God, the Bible. Those who truly love God will love the Bible and will keep the commands and instructions found therein. **It is impossible for a Christian to not love the word of God or to grow in sanctification and obedience.** Jesus places an emphasis on His word and we should to as the Bible is how He communicates to us. **A characteristic and sign of a Christian is love for His Word.** Those who keep His word are those loved by the Father and those who God abides in.

- **John 8:31** Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine;

Those who do not love Him (which is everyone who is not born again) does not keep His words of commands and have no desire to do so. The desire to obey Christ only comes after regeneration and never before.

The words Christ has spoken are the words given to Him to speak by the Father. Jesus is speaking on behalf of the Father as the Father has set His seal upon Jesus (**John 6:27**) and has commanded Him what to speak. The words from the Father He spoke while with them and we have access to those words via the Bible.

- **John 7:16** So Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.
- **John 12:49-50** For I did not speak ^[a]on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Verse 26 The Paraclete, the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father in the name of Jesus and one role He performs is to bring into remembrance all that Jesus had taught them. They did not have the New Testament as they were living the New Testament. They would need help to assist to remember the words spoken by Jesus and that help would come via the Holy Spirit. In the same manner, our Paraclete today, the Holy Spirit bring into remembrance the words of Scripture and helps to understand the word of God.

Verse 27

Jesus has already told them that His time on earth is nearing an end and will soon be leaving them. However, He was not going to leave them empty handed and alone. He will ask the Father and the Father will send another Helper which is God the Holy Spirit and this was done on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**). He was also going to leave them something else, His peace!

Peace with God This peace that He gives is only from and through Him. It is His peace that He gives personally. This peace is made possible by His death on the cross.

- **Colossians 1:13-22** For He rescued us from the [u] domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of [v] His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ [w] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For [x] by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He [y] is before all things, and in Him all things [z] hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For [aa] it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the [ab] fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in [ac] heaven. ²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach
- **Ephesians 2:13-17** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off [i] have been brought near [k] by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the [l] barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ [m] by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might [n] make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, [o] by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near;

There would be no need for reconciliation if two parties were not estranged.

- **Romans 3:10** as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;
- **Colossians 1:21** And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds
- **Romans 8:6-8** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and [i] He has [j] committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- **Isaiah 48:22** "There is no peace for the wicked," says the Lord.

Peace is triune as God is triune

- The Father is the God of peace (**Hebrews 13:20**)
- Jesus is the Price of Peace who brought peace on the cross (**Isaiah 9:6**)(**Eph 2:13-17**)(**Romans 5:1**)
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of peace that brings peace to all believers (**Galatians 5:22**)

Peace and righteousness are connected- Sin interferes with peace. No righteousness, no peace.

- **Psalm 85:10** Lovingkindness and [t] truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- **James 3:17-18** But the wisdom from above is first pure then peaceable, gentle, [m] reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And the [n] seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace [o] by those who make peace.

- **Hebrews 12:11** All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
- **Isaiah 32:17** And the work of righteousness will be peace, And the service of righteousness, quietness and [a]confidence forever.

Peace through Christ's righteousness

- **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, [a]we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- **Romans 5:9-10** Much more then, having now been justified [a]by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved [b]by His life.
- **Romans 8:1-4** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life [a]in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, [b]weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of [c]sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- **Colossians 1:21-22** -see above
- **Ephesians 2:13-17** -see above

Peacemakers by sharing the Gospel of peace

- **Matthew 5:9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- Only those who have been adopted as sons and been justified have peace with God and can be peacemakers.
- Righteousness is required for peace and righteousness is found only in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Christians become peacemakers (between God and man) by sharing the gospel of peace in hopes that the person they witness to will have peace with God.
 - **Ephesians 6:15** and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
 - **Acts 10:34-36** Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation the man who [v]fears Him and [z]does what is right is welcome to Him. ³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching [aa]peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)
 - **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and [i]He has [i]committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to *be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - **Romans 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Peace in life His peace is the cure for fears and anxiety. Don't let your heart be troubled.

- **Phil 4:6-9** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all [d]comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is [e]lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, [f]dwell on these things. ⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- **Isaiah 26:3** "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.

These men had left everything they had to follow Jesus and He would soon be leaving them as His hour is at hand. He would not leave them empty handed but would rather leave them something priceless: His peace. This peace is only possible by His death on the cross as His death would satisfy the wrath of the Father on behalf of His sheep as He would die in their place. He brings us peace with the Father and also gives us peace for our walk with Him throughout life. His peace is what relieves fears, anxiety, and worry. He gives us His peace as He is the Prince of Peace and the peace that He gives is a personal peace. He is returning to the Father and to the glory He had with Him before the world was and what better gift could He leave than His peace. It is His peace that allows Him to tell His disciples in the upper room and now us today "don't let your hearts be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

Verse 28 The disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. They did not just follow Him in a relationship sense, but literally followed Him. They left their fishing boats, fishing nets, tax booths, etc to follow Jesus and now He is telling them He is leaving. There was not rejoicing among them at the news of His leaving, but Jesus told them if they loved Him and knew where He was going they would be rejoicing. He was returning to the Father to be glorified with the Father and with the glory He had with the Father before the world was.

- **John 17:4-5** I glorified You on the earth, [a]having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

The Father is greater than I.

There are two definitions in describing the Trinity are: ontological and economical. The ontological aspect of the Trinity deals with the being of God. God is one being. The economic aspect of the Trinity deals with the three divine persons within the one being of God and the distinct roles each has. The term "economic" in "economic Trinity" comes from the Greek word *oikonomia*, which means "household management." The "economy" of a household includes the assigning of roles or jobs within the family.

This is not meaning that Jesus is inferior to the Father as they are One. The Father is greater than I is speaking only in the economical roles in the plan of redemption as the Father sent the Son and commanded Him in what to speak. Jesus had left the glory He shared with the Father before the world was and humbled Himself in the incarnation and died upon the cross as this was the will and command of the Father. He had experienced the humiliation and now was returning to the Father to again share in the glory He had with the Father.

Verse 29 Jesus' ability declare what will happen before it happens speaks of His deity. (John 13:19).

Verses 30-31 Jesus again reiterates that His death is near when the ruler of the world (satan) and the hour of darkness will appear to have won. However, satan had nothing on Jesus, meaning He had no legal claim or accusation of sin and guilt for Jesus was perfect. As Jesus was hanging on the cross to the world it would appear that satan and the forces of the darkness were victorious. However, His death on the cross was not defeat of weakness but was to make know that He loved the Father and was finishing the work that the Father had commanded Him to do including to die. This plan of redemption was ordained and decreed within the triune Godhead before the world was. Jesus has accepted the economic role of the incarnation, the humiliation, and death on a cross. He had lived a perfect life and fulfilled all righteousness and with His dying breath, the work the Father had sent Him to do was completed as He declared "it is finished!"

- **John 10:17-18** For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

With the agony of the cross in view, knowing the separation from the Father awaits, knowing the wrath of the Father awaits as He hangs on behalf of His sinful sheep, and knowing the sting of death awaits, He says "Get up, let us go from here! The cup of wrath awaits and there is no other way to satisfy the wrath of God to leave the sheep peace than through His death on the cross! With that knowledge and to complete work He was sent to do by the Father, He declared "Get up, let us go" the cross awaits as the hour has come!