

**PP Cornerstone on Purpose: *Loving God in our Obedience***

**Part 2-John 14:15-17 (p. 901 Pew Bible)**

**9/21-22/2019**

Recently I needed to get to a store off Union Blvd, and unfamiliar area to me, so I used my phone's gps, expecting to be directed to Route 22 or Route 78  
Instead, it took me through Tatamy, into Nazareth, to 191, all the while, I'm thinking, to avoid all

these road construction delays

But something just didn't seem right, and it finally dawned on me that on a recent motorcycle trip, I had changed a setting to 'Avoid highways'

That little change took a 20 minute trip and turned it into a meandering 37 minute one

Our church is on a journey as well and it is urgent we get there: **PP *The Cornerstone family of churches exists to bring glory to God***

This is our destination, our goal, but we need to check the right settings, meaning have the correct core values

We want to be a church that glorifies God, and that will happen as we increasingly become a church that is **PP *by making disciples of Jesus Christ who love God, grow together, and serve others***

In order to really understand this, we are preaching through these settings of ***Love God, Grow Together, and Serve Others***

As you turn to **John 14**, think back with me to last week's message when we looked at the greatest commandment God has given...to love Him with all of who we are

Not because He needs us to love Him, but because in fact, we need to love Him for our joy and happiness

He is jealous that we enjoy life and the means of that is to exalt Him as our highest pursuit in life  
We saw that we can pray that God increases our love for Him, and we must pray for each other that our love would increase for our God in this church

Today we will hear Jesus giving final encouragements to His young church just hours before He is going to be crucified

***"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 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. "* John 14:15-17**

**PP 1-Loving Jesus and Obedience to Him are inseparable**

***"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."* John 14:15**

There is a connection between loving God and obeying Him

They go together like macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, Miley Cyrus and crazy  
One without the other leaves you with a sense that something is missing that shouldn't be  
It's like separating identical twins or taking the red, white and blue out of the American flag  
Let's strengthen that: ***Loving God without obeying Him isn't just terrible, it isn't possible***  
You can obey God without loving Him, but you cannot love God without obeying Him

All disobedience betrays a lack of love for God, and an abundant love for ourselves

In the moment of disobedience, who did you or I really love, and the answer is not God  
After all, it rings hollow when someone tells you they love you, but then cheat on you, or stab  
you in the back, or never reach out in your time of need  
Our love for God will be seen clearly in our obedience to Him

We can look at this a little differently however and when we do, it begins to reach even more  
deeply into our hearts  
Put an engine in a racecar and you can reach incredible speeds  
Plug a lamp into a socket and you can light up a room  
Gas in the tank gets you where you want to do, money in your bank lets you use your debit card  
No engine, no speed, don't plug in the lamp and you'll have no light  
No gas, no going anywhere and no money in the bank, no withdrawal  
One is possible because the other exists  
Keeping Christ's commands can happen because there is love for Him in our hearts  
If you are full of love for God, you will not only keep Christ's commands, you will have the  
desire and ability to keep them because they will be precious to you  
You will want to, and it will become unthinkable to do otherwise  
Christian, it is true that we have the obligation to obey, after all He is our Lord and Savior  
But thankfully, Spirit of God is providing us the power and willingness to obey  
**PP "Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and  
fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what  
pleases Him." Philippians 2:12-13**

Have you ever battled a particular weakness in your flesh, a susceptibility to a sin, and for years  
had periods of victory and then periods of failure  
Yet one day you realize that you haven't failed in that area for a while, and in fact, your desire  
has changed, you don't even want to commit that sin anymore  
You can't think of when the change happened, something just is different with your desires  
This is the work of the gospel of grace deep within your heart changing you from the inside out,  
giving you new desires, replacing the old sinful ones  
And it happens as you daily walk with God, letting His living and active Word work deeply in  
your hearts, praying and listening to Him throughout the day, loving Him more and more  
**"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." John 14:15**  
We will never sustain obedience to God out of moral obligation or fear  
We won't obey Him if are trying to get in a good place with God, that He will be happy if I do  
this, and He won't be angry as long as I don't break that command  
If you want to overcome a sin and obey, don't try harder to obey, focus on loving God more  
The antidote for disobedience is not obedience, it is love  
The greater your love for God, the easier it will be to obey  
And He has provided help for us in a very personal way

## **PP 2-Loving Jesus and Obedience to Him are impossible without His help**

In the EFCA denomination, there is an ordination process that takes nearly 3 years to complete  
Around 1½ years in, I had submitted a 32 page paper on my doctrinal beliefs and had to appear

before a council where they asked me questions and I had to define my positions  
I did well until one of the pastors asked me this question: *'How is the Holy Spirit's activity in the OT different than His activity in the NT?'*

It was one of those moments when my mouth took off without my brain and after it finally stopped, the entire group of pastors immediately knew, I didn't know the answer!

You see, in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come and go, temporarily enabling saints to do some powerful work and then departing

So what Jesus tells His disciples had to be absolutely mind blowing: ***"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 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."*** John 14:16-17

We Christians are usually well-acquainted with the Person and work of Jesus, but when it comes to the Holy Spirit, things get a bit fuzzy quick

He is a divine Person, not an 'it', some impersonal power to tap into like the Star Wars' 'force'

James Montgomery Boice said it well, **PP** *"If we think of the Holy Spirit as a mysterious power, our thoughts will continually be, 'How can I get more of the Holy Spirit?' If we think of the Holy Spirit as a Person, our thoughts will be, 'How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?' The first thought is utterly pagan. The second is New Testament Christianity."*

Oh, by the way, did you notice that **John 14:15** is not a command, but a promise?

The KJV wrongfully translates it as a command: *'If ye love Me, keep My commands.'* KJV

But Jesus did not say this, He said if you love Me, *you will* keep My commandments

God in us, the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit working in us as we abide with Him, walk with Him, listen to the Words of life in scripture, pray in Him, and day by day He gains more of our hearts' love and our lives are increasingly transformed to obedience

The same Spirit that was with Jesus on earth, will not only ***'dwell with you'***, He will be ***'in you'***  
What is He doing?

The Spirit of God living deep within each Christian, working to change our desires, helping us love God with all our hearts, so that we will and can keep His commandments

### **PP 3-Loving Jesus and keeping His commandments becomes a glad submission to His authority**

Whenever Scripture repeats something, it alerts us to its importance, and Jesus does this here

In verse 21 He said again, ***"Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me."*** John 14:21

In both verses 15 and 21 the word ***'keep'*** means to watch and guard, and we are to do this with not just the specific commandments of Christ in the gospels, but His ***'word'*** (23) which means all of scripture

The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of Jesus Christ, given for our life and joy, the revealed will of God for us!

What has been consistently attacked since Gen 3 into modern times, is the authority of God as revealed in His Word

And throughout all human history people have tried to live in freedom from God, and to do that they try to reduce the authority, accuracy and relevance of God's Word

You may have never heard of Joseph Fletcher, but he helped originate a morality called

*'Situational Ethics'* that has permeated our culture and even the church today  
 It teaches that anything is permissible as long as it does not seem to hurt anyone  
 He said, **PP** *"Only love is a constant; everything else is a variable."* Joseph Fletcher  
 A former teen in my youth ministry called me recently asking me to do her wedding  
 It didn't take me long to discover she and her fiancé were living together and I brought this up  
 and her reply was an example of how situational ethics works: *'We are in love and know  
 we are marrying each other, so it felt natural to live together'*  
 Yet God's Word says three times in Song of Solomon (2:7; 3:5; 8:4): **PP** *"that you not stir  
 up or awaken love until it pleases."* meaning sexual love is reserved for marriage alone  
 Since the 1970's, studies have proved consistently that living together before marriage has a 33%  
 higher rate of divorce than those who wait to live together until after marriage  
 Yet unbelievers and now many believers believe if you are in love, do what you want as long as  
 you aren't hurting anyone else  
 And the truth is this: *There is not a glad submission to the authority of God revealed in His Word*  
 What is God's Purpose for Cornerstone?  
 It is that we will be a community of Christians whose love for God seeks to lift up His Word as  
 our greatest authority and seek His gracious, generous power to live according to it  
 As the Spirit of God increases a love for God in our hearts, we will treasure and gladly yield to  
 His authority as revealed in His Word

#### **PP 4-Loving Jesus and Obedience to Him is a lifelong process of growth**

John won't leave this thought of love for God producing obedience to God, as he illustrates it in  
 the closing section of his gospel through a conversation between Peter and Jesus  
 Peter, who had earlier abandoned Christ, denying 3 times that he even knew Him, went back to  
 Fishing on the Sea of Galilee along with 6 other disciples  
 He was in the boat when he saw the resurrected Lord on the shores of the lake  
 When he realized Who it was, he jumped in and swam to shore, and Jesus soon looked at His  
 fallen, miserable disciple and said to him, *'Simon, son of John, do you love me more  
 than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'* He said to him,  
*'Feed my lambs.'* He said to him a second time, *'Simon, son of John, do you love me?'*  
*He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.'* He said to him, *'Tend my sheep.'*  
*He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved  
 because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you  
 know everything; you know that I love you.'* Jesus said to him, *'Feed my sheep.'*  
 21:15-17

Three times He asked Peter, *'Do you love Me?'*  
 Do you know what Jesus is doing?  
 He is bringing Peter to godly sorrow, so that Peter would repent for his disobedience  
 But the real problem was not his disobedience, for the very question Jesus asked shows us what  
 his problem really was: he loved himself more than Jesus Christ

What about you as you hear that same question of Jesus echoing to you, *'Do you love Me?'*  
 Listen closely and you will hear something more in His question: *'Do you love Me more than  
 \_\_\_\_\_?'*

Do you love me more than your life, your money, your comfort, your beauty, your ambitions,

your dreams, your control, your security, your pleasure, your friends, your family?  
And if your answer is yes, He will call you into the mission of serving Him, just like He did  
with Peter

If you or I are disobedient in an area...then the problem is we love ourselves more than God  
I will close this message with something Pastor Kent Hughes wrote:

**PP** *"The abiding principle is that before all things, even service to Him, we must love Him with  
all our hearts...Loving God is the highest priority of our lives." Kent Hughes*

And this doesn't happen in an instance, but gradually over a lifetime of growth  
Time after time the Spirit will speak these words of Jesus into our hearts: 'Do you love Me more  
than ??

If our right answer is 'No' then we must confess and repent

If the answer is 'Yes' then listen to what He says next, because it will be an invitation into  
service to the King of all kings, your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Love God, Grow Together and Serve Others...

Amen?

Pray