

What We Do in the Meantime

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John 14:15

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Jesus is LEAVING... Jesus is comforting His disciples while He will be away from them.

- Here is what they are to do while He is away.
- John 14:15 – [15] *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*
- He’s SPEAKING to the DISCIPLES COLLECTIVELY. The verbs are PLURAL.
 - This is a UNIVERSAL RULE.
- If you *agapao* (contrast to *eros*) – means to cherish, have affection for, esteem... if you think this way about CHRIST.
- Then you will HOLD FAST (*tereo*) his COMMANDMENTS.
- You will KEEP WATCH OVER. You will GUARD. You hold these things as VALUABLE. You HOLD them to the END.
 - Paul uses the same word *Tereo* in 2 Timothy 4:7 – [7] *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*
- This does not mean that you reach a STATE of PERFECTION and PERFECT OBEDIENCE. But the GENERAL PATTERN of your LIFE is that of OBEDIENCE to CHRIST.

1) KEEPING of the COMMANDS is the EVIDENCE of TRUE DISCIPLESHIP.

- *If* ... you *agapao* Christ, *then* you will keep my commandments.
- The PROOF of your LOVE is not your profession. It is in your obedience to Christ.
 - Matthew 7:21 – [21] *“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.”*
- The PROOF is in the OBEDIENCE!
 - Galatians 5:19 – [19] *Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*
 - Galatians 5:22 – [22] *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*
 - Obedience to the Lord is the EVIDENCE that someone is a CHRISTIAN in their Heart.
 - Matthew 7:16 – [16] *You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? [17] So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.*
 - John 15:8 – [8] *“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”*
- This is NOT SALVATION by WORKS. It is saying that TRUE FAITH always WORKS.

2) KEEPING the COMMANDMENTS is the FRUIT of LOVE.

- If* ... you *agapao* Christ, *then* you will keep my commandments.
- KEEPING the COMMANDMENTS it is CAUSED by the LOVE.
 - LOVE for CHRIST in the HEART is what PRODUCES OBEDIENCE.
 - The BEST EXAMPLE of this is the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- John 15:10 – [10] *If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.*
- It is the desire to ABIDE in GOD's LOVE that MOTIVATES the OBEDIENCE.
- JESUS desired to walk in CLOSE FELLOWSHIP and COMMUNION with the FATHER. He LOVED the FATHER.
- It was the LOVE for the FATHER that drove HIM to obedience.
 - John 4:34 – [34] *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work."*
 - John 17:4 – [4] *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.*

Christianity always compels us to go back to the BEGINNING. To the BASICS.

1) Love and Obey with the Mind

The Mind is the thinking and rational component of the soul. It is the element of our souls that coincides with our brain. It is our THINKING component.

- When you become a CHRISTIAN you are given a NEW MIND.
- "We have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor 2:16).
 - This means that we begin to think spiritually.
 - We begin to see the world the way that God sees the world.
 - Paul says in Romans 11:33 – [33] *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways.*
- You love the TRUTH. You love thinking the TRUTH. The TRUTH is anchored in JESUS CHRIST.
 - John Owen – It is only in Christ that we plumb 'the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God'. So Christ is said to be 'the wisdom of God' and to be 'made to us wisdom.'
 - A. W. Tozer – Now if there is any reality within the whole sphere of human experience that is by its very nature worthy to challenge the mind, charm the heart and bring the total life to a burning focus, it is the reality that revolves around the person of Christ.
 - 3 John 4 – [4] *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.*
- Implication 1 – You love God's Word in the Mind.
 - Scripture is loved by the CHRISTIAN because it is CHRIST's TRUTH.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 – [16] *All Scriptures is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
 - Psalm 19:10 – [10] *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.*
- Implication 2 – You obey God's Word in the Mind.
 - Psalm 119:5 – [5] *Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!*
 - Psalm 119:10 [10] *With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments.*
 - Psalm 119:14 – [14] *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.*
- Implication 3 – You reject worldly ideologies in the Mind.
 - 2 Corinthians 10:5 – [5] *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*
 - Any WORLDVIEW which opposes the KNOWLEDGE of the TRUE GOD, you tear DOWN.

2) Love and Obey with the Affections

The affections are the QUALITY of the SOUL that speak to our FEELINGS and EMOTIONS. It speaks to our DESIRES.

- John Piper – “Spiritual affections are a spiritual form of emotion. That is, the heart is moved. Some kind of feeling happens that goes beyond thoughts or ideas or decisions.”
- It is in the HEART... in the DEEPEST AFFECTIONS and LOVES that we are to TREASURE CHRIST.
 - 1 Corinthians 16:22 – [22] *If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed.*
 - Jesus said in Matt 10:37 – [37] *Whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*
 - Matthew 13:44 – [44] *“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”*
- JOHN OWEN – “This also shows clearly the difference between true and false Christians. Outwardly, both do the same things and enjoy the same privileges. But now enter into their secret prayers and thoughts. What a difference there is! There the saints hold communion with God. Hypocrites for the most part commune with the world and with their own lusts. They listen to what their lusts have to say, and then they make provision for them. The saints, on the other hand, are sweetly wrapped up in the love of their Father. Often it is impossible that believers should be better outwardly than those with rotten hearts. But this fellowship with the Father true Christians have, of which hypocrites know nothing. They have this feast in the Father’s banqueting house, in which hypocrites have no share. In the multitude of their thoughts, the comforts of God their Father revive their souls.”
- Implication 1 - You love the Lord with your Purity.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3 – [3] *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; [4] that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and not, [5] not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.*
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:7 – [7] *For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.*
 - 1 Peter 1:14, 15 – [14] *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, [15] but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct.*
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18 – [18] *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
- What CAUSES you to TURN AWAY from FORNICATION?
 - Hebrews 11:26 – [26] *He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.*
- Implication 2 - You Love the Lord with your Time.
 - Ephesians 5:15 – [15] *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*
- Implication 3 - You Love the Lord with your Giving.
 - Excel in GIVING...
 - 2 Corinthians 8:8 – [8] *I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. [9] For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*
 - Giving is an ACT of the AFFECTIONS.

3) Love and Obey with the Will

The WILL is the ACTION of the MIND and the AFFECTIONS. It is downstream from the MIND and the AFFECTIONS.

- You WILL what You THINK and what you LOVE in the heart.
- Mark 3:35 – [35] *“For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”*
- John 7:17 – [17] *If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.*
- 1 Peter 4:2 – [2] *so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.*
- If you Love Christ in the Mind. If you Love Christ in the AFFECTIONS, you will be motivated to obey Him with your life.
 - A. W. Tozer – To love God with all our heart we must first of all will to do so. We should repent our lack of love and determine from this moment on to make God the object of our devotion. We should set our affections on things above and aim our hearts toward Christ and heavenly things. We should read the Scriptures devotionally every day and prayerfully obey them, always firmly willing to love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourself.