

God with Us

John 14:15-31

How to grow a relationship

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, **so that you may know him better.**" Ephesians 1:17



The purpose of Johns' Gospel

"Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that **by believing** you may have life in his name." John 20:30-31

John 14:15-21

The Big Idea

God truly (and only) comes to those who submit in love to Jesus

Submit in love to the Father and the Son

Not merely a spiritual or emotional alignment

Rather: actual obedience

Not a slavish attitude

Rather: Eager conformity to the will of God

It is possible to obey without loving

It is impossible to love without obeying

Not perfect obedience

Submit to Jesus and His teaching

Confession and repentance are key

Loving God requires eager submission

obeying what He commands

confessing and turning when we don't

God selectively reveals Himself
and opens Himself
to the people who submit to Him

What should we do?

Submit in love to Jesus

Know what He teaches and commands

And enthusiastically pursue it!

Confession/repentance is key to submission

Humbly asking: What needs to change now?

"This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome..." 1 John 5:2-3

Be in awe of the presence of God in us

The Spirit in us:

The Spirit “lives with you and will be in you.” 14:17

Jesus is in us:

“I will come to you...you will see me...I am in you.” 14:18, 19, 20

The Father is in us:

“My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” 14:23

...if we submit in love to Jesus

Jesus is our model...

“[The evil one] comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.” John 14:31

“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How do people in the world today tend to respond to the idea of “obedience”? How do you tend to respond?
2. In this passage, how did Jesus describe what it means to love Him?
3. What did He say would happen when people love Him?
4. What was Jesus’ answer to Judas’s question in John 14:22? What does it mean that God selectively reveals Himself?
5. How are confession and repentance an expression of submission to Jesus?
6. What is your reaction to Jesus’ promise of how the Father, the Son, and the Spirit will make themselves known to us, and will live in us?
7. How did the devil help make clear to the world Jesus’ love for the Father? (see John 14:31) How might something like that happen in the trials that we face?
8. Read the story of the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30. For that ruler, his money was the key thing he wouldn’t submit to Jesus. What is hard for you to submit to Jesus? What is a good way to submit in love to Jesus when we struggle in submitting this to Him?
9. **Digging deeper:** The Son of God is fully God. Yet Jesus said, “the Father is greater than I.” What does that mean? What doesn’t it mean? Some helpful passages include John 1:1-4; John 5:19-23; Revelation 5:11-14.

Conversation starters

Do you believe that God exists? Why or why not? If you do, what does it mean to know God?