



Obeying God Is Not Optional

John 14:15-23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23—KJV).

Jesus answered and said to 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 abode with him” (John 14:23—NASB).

Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them” (John 14:23—NRSV).

Some people believe that because Jesus Christ died for their sins that obeying God is now optional for Christians. They think the laws of God no longer apply to believers, because they are forgiven for all of their sins. Today, some people only follow the very general teachings of the Bible that seem consistent with the ideas of the most vocal in society. However, Jesus taught that His true followers would keep His commandments and heed His words, and they would obey Him because they loved Him. Jesus endorsed the 10 Commandments, and in His Sermon on the Mount Jesus applied the commandments of God to the desires and inclinations of our hearts and minds – not just to our outward behavior. Jesus called people to turn from their sins so He could forgive them and cleanse them from sin. Jesus promised that those who loved and obeyed Him would receive many blessings. He promised He would ask the Father to send the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, to abide with or remain with His followers. The Holy Spirit would live in His followers. The Spirit of truth would teach them and remind them of what He said. Jesus explained that the world could not receive the Spirit of truth, because those of this world refuse to receive Him and know Him as God has revealed Him. The Bible still reveals Jesus Christ to the world, and those who love Him will obey Him; they will be indwelt by the Spirit of truth and God will make His home with them.

Thinking Further

1. What are some of the things you can do if you love Jesus?
2. Who is the Advocate and what will He do?
3. Why does the world not receive the Advocate?
4. Why do some people neglect or refuse to keep Jesus' words?
5. What is the result of loving Jesus and keeping His word?