

Week of December 11, 2016

<u>This Week's Focus</u>: In love, God the Father and God the Son sent us the Holy Spirit to eternally unite us to the Triune God of grace and love so that we can live in humble obedience to our good Father's commands.

This Week's Text: John 14:15-31

"The conception of the Holy Spirit as a Divine influence or power that we are somehow to get hold of and use, leads to self-exaltation and self-sufficiency. But if we once grasp the thought that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person of infinite majesty, glory and holiness and power, who in marvelous condescension has come into our hearts to make His abode there and take possession of our lives and make use of them, it will put us in the dust and keep us in the dust. I can think of no thought more humbling or more overwhelming than the thought that a person of Divine majesty and glory dwells in my heart and is ready to use even me." **Reuben A. Torrey**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What does Jesus mean by his statement, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"? (Reference verse 31 and 1 John 4:19). How is our obedience to Jesus the "fruit not the root" of our relationship with God?
- What is Legalism and Antinomianism? Which do you struggle with most? Discuss how the gospel combats these two errors.
- Who is the Holy Spirit? Why does Jesus call him "another Helper" (of the same kind)? What work does the Holy Spirit accomplish in the life of believers? Reference verses 16-17, 26.
- Even though he is about to leave them, why can Jesus assure his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you"? What illustration does Jesus use to communicate the depth of our union with him?
- Jesus uses the description of home in two different ways in this chapter (verses 2, 23). Explain what he means by each. Are you comforted by these truths?

- Discuss some ways that our peace and joy in Christ is connected with his going to the Father. Reference verses 27-28.
- What does Jesus mean by his statement in verse 28, "the Father is greater than I"? Explain how Jesus does not mean that he is inferior to the Father in nature nor in essence. Reference John 1:1, 5:18, 8:58, 10:30, 20:28-29.
- How does this passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?