

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Message Notes

In chapters 14 & 15 Jesus gives two analogies that speak about people finding a home in God and God finding a home in us: The analogies are the House & The Vine...

The House

Text: John 14:1-7 (cf. verse 27)

These verses have nothing to do with the Second Coming of Jesus or Mansions in Heaven. Jesus is speaking about coming back to them after His resurrection and dwelling in them by His Spirit.

See verses 2-3, 16-23

"Home" (14:23) is the same Greek word as "rooms" or "dwelling places" (14:2)

The Way to dwelling in God and God dwelling in us is Jesus (John 14:4-6)

In the analogy of the house Jesus is teaching that God finds a home in us and we find a home in God. We have a place to call home! The same truth is communicated in the second analogy...

The Vine

John 15:1-5

The Key

The key to dwelling in God and God dwelling in us is obedience to live a life of love...

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34)
(The command to love is not new but the standard & example is)

"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever" (John 14:15-16)

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them" (John 14:21)

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (John 14:23)

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love..." (John 15:9-10)

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12)

"This is my command: Love each other" (John 15:17)

What are Jesus' Commands? LOVE

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength
Love your neighbour as yourself
Love one another...

Our contribution in this church and in this world is motivated by love. As long as God is at home in us and we are at home in Him we will live fruitful and productive lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the word "Home" mean to you? What pictures does that word bring to your mind? (Relate these concepts of home to your relationship with Jesus)
2. Sometimes Christians are accused or being narrow-minded and arrogant for proclaiming that Jesus is the only way to God. Have you ever had someone say that to you? What was your response? What would a good response be that could keep lines of communication open without compromising truth?
3. If you're a keen gardener relate your experiences of pruning to your life as a Christian.
4. Share experiences in life when God has pruned you. Read Hebrews 12:11 and discuss this verse in the light of John 15:1-5.
5. Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). The apostle Paul stated this truth positively when he wrote, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Discuss times in your life when you've experienced the truth of these statements. Have there been times when you've tried something in your own strength? What was the outcome?
6. The key to dwelling in God and God dwelling in us is obedience to live a life of love. Read the following verses and discuss how they apply to your life (John 13:34; 14:15-16, 21, 23; 15:9-10, 12, 17).