

**The Department of Church Growth and Development:**  
**Evangelism, Home Mission, Church Extension**  
2015 Spiritual Emphasis Theme Explored

**Overall Theme: Teaching Believers to Obey Christ's Commands**

"The Important Lessons from the Gospel of St. John"

**Scripture Lesson** – John 13:1-17

**Christ's Lessons on Servant Leadership**

**Proposition:** Our Lord Jesus has a people in the world that are his own; he has purchased them, and paid dear for them, and he has set them apart for himself; they devote themselves to him as a peculiar people learning to **obey** His commands through instruction, practice, and imitation for effective application.

**1. Christ Demonstrates the Kind of Assurance Needed for Successful Ministry.** John 13:1-3

- a. Christ understood His assignment V. 1
- b. Christ was reflection of God's love to the end. V. 1, 2
- c. Christ loved them all. Nothing can separate a true believer from the love of Christ. V. 2
- c. Christ knew who he was, where he came from, and where he was going. V.3

**2. Christ Taught and Modeled True Servant Leadership** John 13:4-8

- a. Christ laid aside every hindrance to perform this duty. V. 4
- b. Christ washed his disciples' feet that he might teach us to think nothing below us. V. 5
- c. Christ was willing to do all to promote God's glory and for the good of mankind. V. 6
- d. Christ teaches that only those who are spiritually washed by Christ have a part in Christ. V. 7, 8

**3. Christ's Advance Teachings are Many Times Progressive Revelations.** John 13:8-10

- a. Disciples do not now know perfectly any of His works, either of creation, providence, or grace.
- b. Disciples are called to love and obey now, and that they shall know clearer hereafter. V.8
- c. Disciples sometimes mean well, but are guilty of ignorant earnestness. V. 9, 10

**4. Christ Teaches a Great Lesson on Humility, Love, and the Importance of Inward Purity.**

John 13:11-17

- a. Disciples, in every possible way are to assist each other in attaining purity. V. 11-15
- b. Disciples should be willing to perform all sorts of good deeds for each other, even those of the lowest kind, when opportunity serves, and the necessity of any calls for them. V. 16
- c. Our Lord here intimates unto His disciples and us these two things: V.17
  1. The necessity of knowledge in order unto practice.
  2. The necessity of practice in order to experience happiness.

# Christ's Lessons on Faithful Obedience

## Scripture Lesson: John 14:15-24

**Proposition:** When the disciples were showing their love to Christ by their grieving to think of his departure, and the sorrow which filled their hearts upon that knowledge, Jesus bids them, if they would show their love to him, do it, not by these weak and feminine passions, but by their conscientious care to perform their trust, and by faithful obedience to his commands. True love is shown by faith obedience.

### 1. Christ Call of Faithful Obedience is both an Exhortation to Duty and a Call to Comfort.

John 14:15

- a. Faithful obedience requires the practice of godliness in general.
- b. Faithful obedience requires carefulness to duty.
- c. Faithful obedience is following the conduct of the Spirit and receiving the comfort of the Spirit.

### 2. Christ Promises Great and Unspeakable Blessing to Those Who Faithfully Obey. John 14:16, 17

- a. Those who faithfully obey shall have another comforter. V.16
- b. Those who faithfully obey shall have an abiding comforter. (paraclete' - advocate)
- c. Those who faithfully obey shall have another master or teacher, another exhorter. V. 17
  - 1) One who comes in response to prayer.
  - 2) One who works in a spiritual way and manner, inwardly and invisibly.
  - 3) One who enlighten your minds, strengthen and confirm your belief, and increase your love.
  - 4) One who is the Spirit of truth, revealing and leading into all truth.
  - 5) One whom the world cannot receive; but you know Him. Therefore He abideth with you.

### 3. Those Who Faithfully Obey Christ Will Not Be Abandoned. John 14:18-21

- a. He promises that He would continue his care of them. V. 18
  - 1) Not totally - Though I leave you without my bodily presence, not leave you without comfort.
  - 2) Not final- I will come to you, soon.
  - 3) Expect frequent visits of my Spirit; tokens of my love, and visits of my grace.
  - 4) Expect me to come again.
- b. He promises that they should continue their acquaintance with him and interest in him John 14:19-20
  - 1) You should see me, though I will not show myself to the world. (all the people) v. 19
  - 2) You shall live because I live. V. 19.
- c. He promises that those who know and keep His commands demonstrate their love. John 14:21
  - 1) They pass the only true test of love to Jesus. V. 22, 23
  - 2) They shall be loved of my Father. V. 23, 24
  - 3) They shall have my special love and manifestations in their lives.
  - 4) Those who do not hearken or obey my word, do not love me and cannot receive these promise. His word should lead to practical and universal holiness as one great end of His appearance.

## **Christ's Lessons on Productive Fruit Bearing**

### **Scripture Lesson John 15:1-17**

**Proposition:** In Jesus, and all who are vitally joined to him, we find the only true Church, and in our heavenly Father, the great overseer and purifier of it, who inspects, prunes, dresses and expect productive fruit bearing of each abiding branch.

#### **1. Jesus is the true Vine and His Father is the Husbandman, therefore Certain Temptations Must Be Avoided. John 15:1**

- a. Avoid the temptation to leave Christ, and return to Moses again (Judaism)
- b. Avoid the temptation to grow strange one to another (unity, togetherness)
- c. Avoid the temptation to shrink from their apostleship when they meet with hardships.

#### **2. There are four words to which his discourse in this chapter may be reduced. John 15**

- a. *Fruit*, Jn 15:1-8. b. *Love*, Jn 15:9-17. c. *Hatred*, Jn 15:18-25. d. *The Comforter*, Jn 15:26-27.

#### **3. Jesus is the True Vine and the Father is the Husbandman. John 15: 1**

- a. He is the vine, planted in the vineyard, and not a spontaneous product; planted in the earth.
- b. The vine is a spreading plant, and Christ will be known as salvation to the ends of the earth.
- c. The fruit of the true vine honors God and cheers and blesses mankind.
- d. He is the (true vine), as truth is opposed to pretence and counterfeit.

#### **4. Every Believer is a Branch of the true Vine. John 15:2**

- a. Every believing branch must be accountable.
- b. Every believing branch is inspected, and fruit bearing is expected. V.2
  - 1) Our roots abide in Christ who causes our flourishing and fruitfulness.
  - 2) Our support system and supplies come from Christ.
  - 3) Believers, like the branches of the vine, are weak, and insufficient to stand of themselves
  - 4) We are God's husbandry; He has planted, and watered, and gives the increase.

#### **5. Productive Fruit Bearing Requirements and Blessings. John 15: 5-8**

- a. Fruit bearing branches must abide in Christ and in the hands of the Vinedresser. V. 4
- b. Fruit bearing branches must produce the fruit of righteousness.
- c. Produce Christian temper and disposition.
- d. Produce Christian lifestyle and conversation.
- e. Practice Christian devotions and Christian designs.
- f. Honor God, do good, and exemplify the purity and power of the religion we profess.
- g. God is glorified by our fruitfulness, v. 8

#### **6. The Doom of the Unfruitful Branches. John 15:2**

- a. Unfruitful Branches are given the treatment deserved.
- b. Unfruitful Branches are taken away.
- c. Unfruitful branches will wither; be gathered, cast into the fire and they are burned.

#### **7. The Fruit of the Spirit in the Believer's Life is Love. John 15:9, 10**

- a. The believer's pattern of love is demonstrated by the Father and the Son.
- b. The believer's duty is love others as God has demonstrated His love for them.
- c. The believer's Challenge is to Continue in that Love. V. 9, 10
- d. The believers Continue in Love by keeping His Commandments. V. 10
- e. The Believers prove themselves as friend of Jesus by faithful obedience. V11-14
- f. As friend of God, believers enjoy special privileges. V. 15
  - 1) Friends are made his table-companions
  - 2) Friends sit at the Communion feast and intimate conversation.
  - 3) Friends are more than servants
  - 4) Friends enjoy the privileges of the Chosen and ordain V. 16

## **Christ's Lessons on Enduring Persecution**

**Scripture Lesson:** John 15:18-16:4

**Proposition:** Divine election secures us human hatred as well as divine love, but for the sake of the sweet, we joyfully accept the bitter. The world hate believers because your maxims, tempers, actions are quite opposite to theirs, therefore endure persecution for Christ's sake.

- 1. The world's Ignorance is the True Cause of its Hatred to the Disciples of Jesus.** John 15:18
  - a. The world hated Christ because did not know Him.
  - b. The world hates Christ's disciples because the world only loves its own.
  - c. The world hates Christ's disciples because they are not of the world, but have been called out of the world.
- 2. The Servant is Not Greater than his Lord and Must Expect Similar Treatment.** John 15:19, 20
  - a. Servants of God cannot expect to be treated better than His Lord. v.19
  - b. Servants of God should understand, if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.
  - c. Servants of God should understand, if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours. V. 20
  - d. Servants of God should see Jesus' example and forewarning encouragement to persevere.
  - e. Servants of God are abused because the world does not know the Father. v. 21
- 3. The Light of Jesus Exposed the World as Sinful, Their Rejection of Light Increase Sin.** V. 22, 23
  - a. No apology remains for a man when his ignorance is removed.
  - b. No darkness can hide in the light of Jesus.
  - c. He who has had Jesus for his teacher and yet refuses to learn, is guilty of willful ignorance.
  - d. He who has had Jesus for his teacher and yet refuses to learn deserves the severest judgment.
  - e. Willful ignorance causes men to rebel against the Truth. v. 24
  - f. Willful ignorance causes men to deny the miraculous works of Christ. V. 24
  - g. Willful ignorance causes men to hate the Father and the Son without a cause. V. 25
- 4. The Holy Spirit will preserve the Cause of Christ in the world. John 15:26, 27**
  - a. Believers are encouraged by The Holy Spirit, notwithstanding their opposition.
  - b. Believers are empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear testimony of Christ and his salvation.
  - c. Believers have an inner witness of the Holy Spirit, and may become witnesses to others.
  - d. Believers must be with him/know him, and we must know him before we can be His witnesses.
- 5. The Sobering Words of Jesus are Given that His Disciples Should not Be Offended.** John 16:1-4
  - a. The Disciples of Christ are apt to be offended at the cross.
  - b. The Disciples of Christ are apt to be put out of the synagogues v. 2
  - c, The Disciples of Christ are apt to be misunderstood. v. 2
  - d. The world's rage against them is because they have not known The Father or The Son.
- 6. Jesus Tells Them Why He Gave Them Notice Now.** V. 3, 4
  - a. That they might not be caught by surprised
  - b. That their belief of Christ's foresight and faithfulness may be confirmed.
  - c. That their trouble may be the less grievous.
- 7. Jesus Tells Them Why He Did Not Give Them Notice Sooner.**
  - a. That it was not needful to do it at once, as he was to be with them for more than three years.
  - b. That while he was with them he went before them, weighting all calamities would befall them.
  - c. That his presence was to them what the presence of the Holy Spirit would be after his death.
  - d. Now he was about to leave them and they would need to be doubly on their guard.
  - e. God does not suffer his people to fall into trials without giving them sufficient warning.

# **Christ's Lessons on The Holy Spirit's Empowerment**

## **Scripture Lesson: John 16:7-20**

**Proposition:** The glorified Redeemer is not unmindful of His church on earth, nor will He ever leave it without its necessary supports. Though He departs, He sends the Comforter. Those things often seem grievous to us that are really expedient for us.

### **1. Christ's Departure was Necessary to the Comforter's Coming. John 16:7**

- a. Sending the Holy Spirit was to be the fruit of Christ's death which was His going away.
- b. Jesus' bodily presence could be only in one place at one time.
- c. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, in all places, at all times wherever two or three gathered together in his name.

### **2. The Holy Spirit Has a Specific Assignment as the person responsible for Conviction. V. 8-10**

- a. To work mightily through the preached word empowered by the Spirit of God
- b. To convince the world of its own unrighteousness and Christ's righteousness and almightiness.
- c. To reprove the world of sin leaving them without any excuse.
- d. To convince the world of the greatness and heinousness of their sin. V. 11, 12
- e. To convince men of the just sentence passed on Satan; for Satan's efforts will be foiled, and consequently the time will come when all the subjects of his dominions shall be judged also.

### **3. The Holy Spirit Has a Specific Assignment to the Disciples. John 16:13**

- a. The Spirit of truth comes to guide them into all truth. V. 13
- b. The Spirit of truth shall teach nothing contrary to what Jesus has taught you.
- c. The Spirit of truth will show you things to come.
- d. The Spirit of truth will fully explain everything that may now appear dark or difficult to you.
- e. The Spirit of truth will make the new covenant revelation complete and perfect.
- f. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the person, work, and love of Jesus.

### **4. The Holy Spirit Has a Specific Assignment to Reveal Christ. John 16:16-20**

- a. The Spirit of truth will assist them through the sorrows they would experience.
- b. The Spirit of truth will provide consolation in his absence.
- c. The Spirit of truth's coming would be evidence that He went to His Father He Said.
- d. Jesus Knew these things were too much to comprehend now (1) Alluding to the withdrawal of his bodily presence (2) His Resurrection (3) Recognize his spiritual presence at Pentecost, but the Spirit of Truth would help them.

# Christ's Lessons on Christian Sanctification

## Scripture Lesson: John 17:6-19

**Proposition:** Jesus prays that the Holy Father would keep the disciples by his power and for his glory, that they might be united in affection and labors with the Father and the Son. The real holiness of all true Christians is the fruit of Christ's death, by which the gift of the Holy Ghost was purchased; he gave himself for his church, to sanctify it. Christian Sanctification is being set apart for God's glory and service.

### 1. Christ, having prayed for himself, now prays for those that are his, because: John 17:6-8

- a. Because He received them from his Father, and they have embraced his doctrine. v. 6
- b. Because they will have so many mighty enemies, that they will not be safe without divine help. v. 7
- c. Because as Christ had approved himself a faithful prophet, they had proved themselves faithful followers. v.7
- d. Because the Basis of Christian Sanctification begins with receiving Christ by faith, the word of Christ in faith, and a relationship with The Father through faith in Christ. v. 8

### 2. Christ identifies the object of His prayer. John 17: 9, 10

- a. Jesus Prays a special blessings for His disciples who could appreciate it. V. 9
- b. Jesus specially pleads that his beloved ones may be kept from the evil allurements of the world. V. 9
- c. Jesus prays not for the ungodly world that could not appreciate or receive God's gift.
- d. Jesus specially pleads that his beloved ones may be kept from the evil schemes of the world.
- e. Jesus prays not for the ungodly world who themselves were the cause of the evil actions against His Disciples.
- f. Jesus prays for them because they belong to the Father and the Son and will glorify both. V. 10

### 3. Christ identifies the purpose of His prayer. John 17:11- 14

- a. Because Jesus would no longer be with them, only God's power can keep them. v. 11
- b. Because being kept from the world allurements allows them to be unified with us. v. 11
- c. Because the Keeping power of your name is sufficient. v. 12
- d. Because Christian Sanctification will allow them to experience the fullness of joy. v. 13
- e. Because the disciples need special protection from the hatred of the world. v. 14
- e. Because I (Jesus) need them to remain in the world as sanctified witnesses. v. 15

### 4. Christ Identifies the Source of Sanctifying Grace. John 17: 14, 17, 18

- a. The Holy Spirit will use God's Word for personal sanctification. V. 14
- b. The Holy Spirit will consecrate them by his Spirit to their office. V. 17
- c. The Holy Spirit will perfect them in holiness by means of thy word. V. 17
- d. The Holy Spirit will commission them to glorify the Father by the salvation of men. V. 18
- e. The Lord served as their example, consecrating himself, setting himself apart for their sake, that they also might be consecrated to the glory of God. V. 19

# Christ's Lessons on Christian Unity

## Scripture Lesson: John 17:20-26

**Proposition:** Where there is real grace in the heart, true unity is manifested. All the truly spiritual are one, and no party names can divide them; one touch of grace has made all the saints more than kin, for they are one body in Christ.

- 1. Christ's prayer is expanded to include All Who Believe and Those Who Shall Believe on Him.**
  - a. It is through the preached word that souls are brought to believe on Christ. V.20
  - b. It is to this end that Christ appointed the scriptures to be written and ministry to continue in the church.
  - c. It is certainly and infallibly known to Christ those who believe on him.
- 2. Christ's prayed with a certainty by the divine forethought and purpose for all from the great and eminent believers to the meanest and weakest; from the highest post to the lowest position. V. 21-23**
  - a. That they all may be one. John 17:11, 21
  - b. That they might be one in their testimony to Christ; and that there be harmony among the evangelists.
  - c. That they might be of one heart, and of one mouth, speaking the same thing.
  - d. That they might all be incorporated in one body.
  - e. That they might all be animated by one Spirit.
  - f. That they might all be knit together in the bond of love and charity, all of one heart. V. 22, 23
- 3. Christ Prays for Christian Unity That All Might be Knit Together in Love and Charity.**
  - a. Christian Unity means one in judgment and sentiment; not in every little thing.
  - b. Christian Unity means one in disposition and inclination.
  - c. Christian Unity means one in their designs and aims.
  - d. Christian Unity means one in their desires and prayers.
  - e. Christian Unity means one in love and affection.
  - f. Christian Unity means all having the same divine nature and bearing the same image.
- 4. Christ makes His plea or argument for Christian Unity; based on these things: John 17:11, 21-23.**
  - a. That the Father and Son are one, by nature and essence, equal in power and glory, and in love.
  - b. That the union of believers should mirror the Father and Son's union because they are united by a divine nature, by the power of divine grace, under the guidance of the divine counsel.
  - c. Christian Unity is a holy union, knit by in the Holy Spirit, for holy end and purpose.
  - d. Christian Unity is a complete union; Father, Son and believers having the same attributes, properties, and perfections; all are a part of the same image. Eph. 4:4-6, John 17:23
- 5. Christ's view of Christian Unity – What does it look like? We are complete in him. John 17:23**
  - a. First, Union with Christ: Christ dwelling in the heart of a believer creating a new man.
  - b. Secondly, Union with God through him: Thou in me, so as by me to be in them.
  - c. Thirdly, Union with each other, that they may be made perfect in one.
- 6. Christ prays for the Glorifying of All those that were given Him. John 17:24-26**
  - a. First, He had prayed that God would preserve, sanctify, and unite them.
  - b. Now He prays that he would crown all his gifts with their glorification.
  - c. Allow my disciples to occupy the same place as me.
  - d. Allow my disciples to share the same glory and reward with me.
  - e. Allow all the elect to come be with me in heaven, to see my glory, and to share in it.