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## RELATED SCRIPTURES

Romans 8:9-11 | Ephesians 2:8-9 | 1 Peter 1:21

## STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 2.4.24

### SUMMARY

The disciples must have felt a natural confusion in Jesus' words between "I will not leave you as orphans" and "In a little while and the world will see me no more." However, Jesus continues, ". . . but you will see me." How can Jesus leave yet not be separated from his disciples? Jesus begins to slowly unfold the mystery of the Trinity for his disciples—while they certainly don't fully grasp what he is saying in the moment—he promises them that the Helper will seal their union with him. Moreover, to be in union with Christ is to be united with the Father. While the members of the Trinity have distinct functions, they are steadfastly inseparable. One of his disciples inquired further of this mystery, essentially asking Jesus, "How is this supposed to work?" Somewhat surprisingly, Jesus responds, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (v. 23). At first glance, it would appear Jesus is putting a condition on the disciples that would ensure his presence with them, "As long as you obey me, we (the Trinity) won't leave you" (notice the use of "our" in verse 23). In a manner of speaking, this is true; obedience to God begets closeness to God. However, the engine behind their obedience (and ours) doesn't come from our abilities and strength (Ephesians 2:8-9); we are empowered to obey the commands of God by the power of the Helper—the Holy Spirit. Jesus then gives additional assurances to his disciples that it is also through the strength of the Helper that they would "remember" (v. 26). This remembrance is the very inspiration that many in the room would not only carry the gospel to unknown parts of the world, but they would write down these accounts for the benefit of generations to follow—a legacy—passed down through the inspired word of God (1 Peter 1:21).

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of John 14:18-31.

Does the idea of a God who is the Almighty Creator of the world sometimes make you feel that he is a distant God? How does this passage assure us that God is not distant but near?

Explain how this passage relates obedience to God's commandments with his nearness to us. Is obedience a condition to obtain his nearness or a byproduct of his nearness? In your own words, how might you explain this to a non-believer?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.