

Home Group Leader's Notes

Week of February 20, 2022

John 16:1-15

Sermon Series: *This is Love*

HOW ABOUT YOU?

What kind of teamwork did you experience in your household while growing up?

This leads into the idea from John 16 that there is a teamwork between the Holy Spirit and the Christ-follower.

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE

Our passage continues the message of Jesus to the disciples on the night He was arrested. Jesus reminded them of his ministry of love and sacrifice, called them to love one another, said He was returning to the Father and that they were to be God's witness in the world of the good news of Jesus.

This week's section expands on the role of the Holy Spirit of God as Jesus' disciples continue His ministry in the world. It might be helpful to consider these questions:

Jesus began talking about the Holy Spirit's roles earlier in His message. How is the Spirit described? What do we learn in the following verses about His roles?

- John 14:16-17 Jesus and the Father will send another Helper [another like Jesus] to be with us forever. He is the Spirit of Truth. The world will not receive or recognize Him, but we will know Him.
- John 14:26 He would teach and help the apostles remember what Jesus' taught them. We now have these teachings in the Word of God, the Bible.
- John 15:26-27 The Holy Spirit will testify to Jesus.

Both the Spirit and Jesus' disciples will "testify" about Jesus. How are these connected? (15:26-27) The Spirit of Truth will testify about Jesus through us. This is a partnership of God working through His willing friends / disciples.

Read 16:1-15. Why will Jesus' followers need Jesus' words and the Holy Spirit? (See also 15:18, ff) What warnings did Jesus share? Three warnings have been issued. (1) We will be hated by the world, (2) it is possible for this to cause us to "go astray" or "fall" (16:1), like Peter did when he denied Jesus three times, and (3) the persecution could be intense enough that people will put you out of the synagogue (the center of their culture) or even kill you (16:2) thinking they do this as a service to God.

Jesus' repeatedly said that we need His words by saying, "I have told you this so that . . ." We need to listen and follow His instructions and insight. Specifically, Jesus was telling us what we must do, i.e., abide in Him together (chapter 15) and trust the work and words of the Holy Spirit (chapter 16).

What were Jesus' purposes in "telling" them these things?

Jesus gave them several purpose statements: (1) he wanted to warn so that they wouldn't fall (v. 1), (2) He wanted to know that He had to go away so the Counselor would be come and be in us, and (3) He wanted us to know that the Holy Spirit would be doing in the world (vs.8-11) as we testify and bear fruit, and (4) that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles and us into truth.

How is the Spirit named in our passages? (e.g. "Holy") How are each of these significant?

The Helper – One like Jesus, He will be present in our lives as Jesus was present

The Spirit of Truth – One who teaches us truth He hears from the Father and Jesus

The Holy Spirit – the third person of the trinity, God in us

The Counselor – one who comes alongside to guide, to comfort, to testify

The ministry of the Spirit to the world is described in vs. 8-11. If the Spirit's role is to convict people, what is our role? (The Spirit convicts the world "of sin," that they are separated from God, "of righteousness," that they are not righteous and therefore cannot be with God, and "judgment," that they will end up condemned like the "prince of this world" – the devil.)

Jesus has clearly stated our role in chapters 15-16. We are to abide in Jesus together, praying, obeying, and loving one another. And we will testify, point to the Lord Jesus in our words, works, and character.

What is the Spirit's role of revelation to the Apostles? (12-15) How does this impact us today?

The Spirit would cause them to remember what Jesus did and taught them. This was handed down to us through the apostles and their disciples. That is, we have the New Testament as a result of the work of the Spirit of truth.

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Do you believe that what Jesus said to the early disciples about the roles of the Holy Spirit also apply to you? Find a friend this week and discuss this question and how this affects what it means for us to "testify."

Shepherds, these suggested applications are meant to help us go beyond information. Perhaps you have a person in your group that you would like to meet with this week.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

Do you think that persecution of Christ-followers is increasing in America? What can we learn from John 15-16 about the response of the world to God and us? What can we take to heart from this passage?

For me, I began to see this 15 years ago as certain groups began to complain that the teaching of the Bible was offensive to them. Since that time, more groups and more leaders in universities and government see Christ-followers and those who believe the words of Scripture are postured as enemies, as those who are offending, those who holding back progress and rights.

Our response is to continue to abide in Jesus together, loving and encouraging one another, trusting the work of the Holy Spirit to convict people. Some people under conviction (guilt) will blame Christians and the Bible, others may be hungry to hear the good news of what Jesus did for us. We walk in faith, testifying to Jesus, and revealing what it looks like to know our magnificent God.

What do we learn about the Holy Spirit's role in the world that should shape how we see our role in the world?

The Holy Spirit does the inner work of convicting people of sin, their unrighteousness and need for righteousness, and that without Jesus they are already condemned as the devil is already condemned.

What this means is that we should not try to produce conviction on our own. It could be through us that the Holy Spirit will work. And this could be Jesus in us (His presence), Jesus' words, our unwillingness to enter in the sins of the world (holy living), and even the words of gospel may bring conviction. But we must always remember that actual conviction is a role of the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit of God be your guide and strength as you shepherd God's family,

Steve