

The Presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

As you sit here today, do you face any fears, anxieties or concerns? What is the source? For most of us we live with some level of this, right? When Jesus told His disciples that He was going away, they experienced this at a deep level. They couldn't imagine a good future without Jesus being with them. His personal presence was the key to their well-being. Jesus understood their fears and He speaks to such concerns. In doing so, He speaks to our fears and concerns as well. This week we are starting a four-week study for Lent focused on the truth that we are not alone.

Opening Discussion: What, if any, issue in the future is causing you some level of anxiety these days?

Read John 14:15-24

1. What is the context of this passage?
2. Read John 13:33. Try to get in the minds of the disciples as Jesus tells them He is leaving them. What kinds of thoughts and feelings do you imagine they were having?
3. What does Jesus say in verse 16 that speaks to any sense of abandonment that the disciples might have been feeling?
4. What other things does Jesus say in the rest of this passage that addresses any sense of fear and anxiety that the disciples were feeling about Jesus leaving them?
5. How would you summarize what this passage teaches about the nature of the Triune God's relationship to us as believers?

6. Part of the disciples' anxiety about Jesus leaving them was rooted in their concern about being able to obey Him when He was gone. Could they do His will when He was gone? How does the promise of God's indwelling presence speak to this concern for the disciples and us?

7. There are a number of things taught in this passage that reinforce the truth that the triune God indwells us and empowers us to love and obey Jesus:

- The Father has giving me "another Helper" who is with me forever.
- The Spirit of truth teaches me about Jesus
- I know the Spirit of truth; He is in me.
- I am not an orphan; I am not abandoned and alone in this world.
- My heavenly Father loves me.
- Jesus loves me and discloses Himself to me.
- The trine God is right at home with me.

As you think about any concerns you have about being able to love and obey Jesus, which of these truths seem especially relevant to you and your situation?

8. How would it affect your life if you genuinely believed and experienced this truth?

9. How can we let truths such as these sink deep into our lives such that we are genuinely transformed by them? What practical things can we do?